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Le Trésor des Kirouac

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



Unveiling of a monument in Kamouraska; L. to R.: Jacques Kirouac, Éliane Tardif, Clément Kirouac, Alexandre Kirouac, Pierre Kirouac and François Kirouac (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

Kérouac



Kéroack



Kirouac



Kyrrouac



Kérouack



Kirouack

Le trésor des Kirouac

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From the President

On August 5, 2006, over sixty people gathered in Kamouraska to take part in our annual gathering. It was a bright sunny Saturday afternoon and everyone met at the historical site of the Kamouraska Cradle for the unveiling of a new monument in homage to our ancestor.

After the unveiling and the Annual General Meeting, the participants listened to Clément Kirouac's talk about the new genealogical analysis of Patricia Dagier. Last spring, after discovering new documents referring to our Ancestor, she prepared her analysis. Unfortunately, given the conditions of publications imposed by the owner of the research in Brittany, it is totally impossible for our Association to tell you about it in whole or in part.

However, in the following pages, I invite you to read the report of the gathering prepared by our Secretary, J. A. Michel Bornais. The report and photos we hope will give you a proper taste of the ambience at the site of the Manoir Taché last August 5, 2006.

On this lovely Saturday afternoon, at the annual gathering, we had the pleasure to welcome Mrs. Nicole Kirouac, originally from Abitibi, who took this opportunity to announce that she would be organizing next year's gathering. So it is with great pleasure that I inform you that all Kirouacs,

members and non-members of our Association, will be warmly invited to Amos in Abitibi on August 3-4-5, 2007. There is no doubt that the organizing committee will pull out all the stops to make sure that we discover the beauties of their far away region known for its very rich minerals and particularly for the inhabitants' warm hospitality.

This will be a first for our Association, as it will be the very first KFA gathering in the Quebec North-West where about one hundred Kirouacs live and are all descended from two Kirouacs who settled in Abitibi at the beginning of the twentieth century. The KFA Board, at its autumn meeting, will study the possibility of chartering a bus to ensure that as many people as possible can attend in spite of the great distance. We certainly want this first KFA gathering in Abitibi to be a real success.

I also take advantage of this page to let you know about another project the Board has been working on for 2008. As the year 2008 marks the 400th anniversary of the foundation of Quebec City, there will be many celebrations throughout the year in and around the capital. And I take great pleasure in announcing that the 2008 annual Kirouac

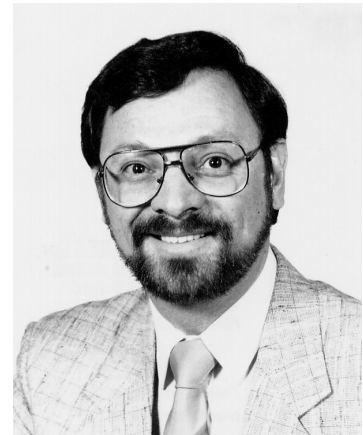


Photo: Studio Les Saules eng.

François Kirouac

family gathering will take place within the walls of the Citadel on the heights of Quebec. This Citadel is reputed to be the most prestigious military engineering construction in North America. So let us meet in Quebec City on August 2-3, 2008.

Why not plan your holidays around these two important dates. What an opportunity to discover Abitibi in 2007 and Quebec City's famous Citadel in 2008. Rest assured that the Kirouacs in these two regions will do their utmost to give you a memorable time and discover as much as possible in both places. We will let you know how these two events are progressing!





From the Secretary's Desk

GERALD NICOSIA AT THE ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE IN SAN FRANCISCO

Biographer and writer Gerald Nicosia from Corte Madera, CA, has been invited as guest speaker for October 2006 by the *Alliance Française de San Francisco*. His topic will be the French side of Jack Kerouac's life. Nicosia's long and indefectible relationship with the Kirouac Family Association no doubt qualifies Gerry as an exceptional provider of information when it comes to this subject. Within literary circles, he is the only biographer to have shown a significant interest in Jack Kerouac's broader family. He has also been the only one to side with Janet Michele Kerouac in her struggle to preserve all her father's manuscripts and personal archives as a whole. The Kirouac Family Association is proud to count him among its members and, above all, hold him as a faithful friend.

WEB SITE, E-MAIL AND MEMBERS' PRIVILEGES

Following the Kamouraska 2006 K/rouac reunion, Pierre Kirouac from Trois-Rivières quit his Vice-President's seat to become the KFA Webmaster. After working on our Web Site for over a year he officially put it on line on July 1st 2006; from now on he will manage our web site. It must be noted that the new address reads as follows: <http://www.genealogie.org/famille/kirouac>

Please note that the "LIBERTEL" E-mail address has been withdrawn

and all messages must now be sent to the secretary at: afkirouacfa@hotmail.com. This address is exclusively for KFA activities and anyone can have his/her E-mail address registered free of charge whether being a KFA member or not. Our address list is confidential and no address is ever transmitted without the owner's consent. Please do not forget to inform us of any change of E-mail or postal address.

We insist on the fact that our Web Site, as well as our E-Mail service, are our privileged links with our members BUT neither is intended to replace "*Le Trésor des Kirouac*" as each issue of our bulletin is meant to be a chapter in our "Family Encyclopaedia". Priority is thus given to topics that are worth becoming part of our family's history and your stories and pictures are always more than welcomed. We also offer all possible assistance to those who may feel uncomfortable with writing an article. It is ever so sad to learn that some old family documents and photos were fed to recycling bins instead of to official family archives. We should not underestimate their value to future generations. Let us be forever thankful to our predecessors who kept 'old things' perhaps trivial then but so precious now!

"WIKIPEDIA" ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA

You are invited to consult the pages on Conrad Kirouac (Brother Marie Victorin) and Jack Kerouac on 'Wikipedia' the online encyclopaedia, where a note on the

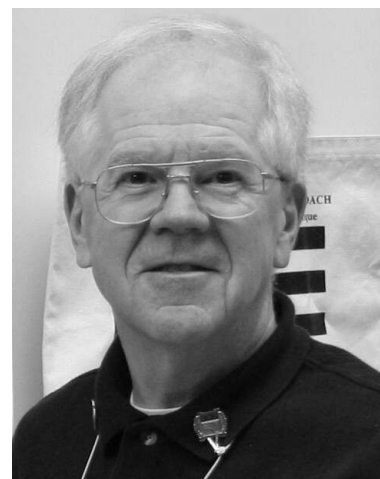


Photo: François Kirouac

Michel Bornaïs

origin of the K/ family name has also been added by your secretary.

IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP PERIOD

For administrative purposes, membership to the KFA and subscription to the bulletin *Le Trésor des Kirouac* make up a calendar-year package from January to December. Therefore, when a person subscribes during the year, the new member receives the previous issues of that year. March = first issue, June = second issue, September = third issue, and December = fourth issue. We do not offer membership/subscription overlapping two calendar years nor half-year subscription. However, copies of *Le Trésor* may be purchased individually at any time at a cost of \$3. Can/US plus \$3. Can./US for shipping and handling.

KAMOURASKA 2006

SPECIAL HOMAGE TO THE ANCESTOR

By J.A. Michel Bornais

Exceptionally the KFA Board took on organizing the 2006 Annual Family Gathering because there were no 'cousins' living in the area. The main reason for selecting Kamouraska was the unveiling of a new monument in the memory of our ancestor at the historical site of the Kamouraska Cradle. Thus Lucille and François Kirouac started the ball rolling a year ago and found the Manoir Taché to be the ideal place with its incredible view over the large estuary of the Saint Lawrence River.

Among the sixty people present, it was noted with great satisfaction that there were many members of the younger generation. It was so nice indeed to see young children and teenagers so proud to be invited to discover the richness of the family treasure. It was also wonderful to note the return of some of our veterans. People came from far away indeed ... Saguenay, Abitibi, Témiscouata and even Halifax, Nova Scotia. We all enjoyed perfectly splendid weather. The only shadow on this day was the absence of our American cousins in spite of so much communication efforts.

The first activity on the programme was of course the unveiling of the new monument at the Kamouraska Cradle. We purposely write "new", because a first memorial was

installed in 1980, where one reads the name used by our ancestor when he married Louise Bernier, in Cap St-Ignace in 1732. A name invented or borrowed . . . only God knows and the devil perhaps guesses but will we ever find out why some day? The first memorial plaque is safely up on the wall inside the kiosk/chapel.

This time, to set the records straight, three different names are inscribed on the monument to identify the ancestor: Maurice Louis Le Brice de Kervoach, the groom's name in Cap St-Ignace; Alexandre Kéloaque, the name under which he was buried on March 6, 1736 at the very Kamouraska Cradle and ... finally, Urbain François Le Bihan, Sieur De Kervoach, as he was revealed to us at the end of the nineties thanks to the perspicacity of Mrs. Patricia Dagier, genealogist from Quimper in Brittany, whose services Clément Kirouac had retained and paid for himself. Clément did so because, due to lack of funds, the KFA had abandoned the search in 1993 after the annual family gathering held in Trois-Rivières.

Further to the research started in 1996, Mrs. Dagier had the great idea to insist that Clément and François carry on the research in Québec as well, hence two documents were unearthed, documents where the ancestor had the bright idea to sign both his names together, and this corroborated Mrs. Dagier's discoveries in Brittany. Making reference to new developments while this research is still carried



Alexandre Kirouac proudly holding the Quebec and Breton flags on August 5, 2006 at the Kamouraska Cradle.

Photo: Caroline Bornais



Mr. David Creighton from Burlington, Ontario, retired professor of literature and a great fan of Jack Kerouac, with Michel Bornais.

Photo: Caroline Bornais





(Photo: Caroline Bornais)

From left to right, from Halifax: Cyril Worth, Evan Kéroack-Worth, Julien Kéroack-Worth, Nathalie Kéroack; from Ste-Catherine (Qc): Élodie Kéroack, Martin Kéroack, Vicky Grondin.

on, Clément Kirouac invited everybody to follow him to the Manoir Taché where, as he said, he had new surprising facts to present but unfortunately we cannot reveal anything to you because of the conditions imposed by Mrs. Dagier herself, conditions that the KFA cannot meet at the present.

Mr. GUY DRAPEAU,
PRESIDENT OF THE
CORPORATION OF THE
KAMOURASKA CRADLE

The KFA President, François Kirouac, first invited Mr. Guy Drapeau, President of the Corporation of the Kamouraska Cradle to welcome everyone and to give a brief history of the Memorial Site since its creation in 1945, until its official inauguration planned for mid-September 2006.

THE UNVEILING
(Please see text on page 9)

Jacques Kirouac, as founding president of the Association and

Clément Kirouac, as past president and generous sponsor of the fortunate research done by Mrs. Patricia Dagier, were invited to proceed to the unveiling of the monument with the help of a member of the youngest generation, Alexandre Kirouac, son of Laurent Kirouac and Chantal Côté from St-Hubert in Montérégie region (Montreal south-shore), proud Kirouac descendant, who held high the Quebec flag that Jacques Kirouac had first taken off the monument and then he held high the Breton flag, taken off by Clément Kirouac.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING 2006 WELCOMES
TWO NEW DIRECTORS

As soon as the candidates were nominated, there was no need for a vote, as there were only two candidates for the two vacant posts and they were filled by **two ladies**: Mrs. Mercédès Villeneuve Bolduc, who is the regional representative

for the Saguenay-Lake Saint-Jean area, and Mrs. Lucie Jasmin from Montreal.

This proves again that years do not alter the profound link and fidelity of people to their K/ forebears even after many generations, Mercédès is the great-granddaughter of Marie Kirouac and Wilfrid Villeneuve who were married in Jonquièrre on August 13, 1889. As for Mrs. Lucie Jasmin, we have yet to find her branch in the Kirouac family tree, but she has gained our respect for her priceless collaboration with Brother Gilles Beaudet, f.é.c., as editor and annotator of *Mon Miroir*, the personal memoirs of Conrad Kirouac, Brother Marie-Victorin, published by FIDES in 2004. We welcome both ladies with open arms.

SUGGESTION FOR A NEW
MEMORIAL AT THE PLACE
KNOWN AS KERVOAC

After the Annual General Meeting, Robert Kirouac presented some additional information about the road work done in Lanmeur,

Brittany, that forced the municipal authorities to move the stele that, until then, identified the Jack Kerouac Street; the stele was originally placed by the road side on the property known as De Kervoac where our name originates. The stele's new location having nothing to do with the actual De Kervoac land, Robert Kirouac suggested that the KFA considers putting up another stele on the land to identify it and this plaque should also show the relation to the family name as well as recall the Return to the Source voyage in July 2000.

NICOLE KIROUAC FROM
ABITIBI ACQUIRES
MARYVONNE LE COAT'S
PAINTING

(See text on page 13)

NEWS FROM OUR STRONG
MAN FROM TÉMISCOUATA:
GONZAGUE KIROUAC

It was with great emotion and fervour that Mrs. Ghislaine St-Pierre, wife of Gonzague Kirouac, our legendary strong man from Témiscouata, whose name is in the *Guinness Book of World Records*, took the time to inform us about her husband's health or rather lack thereof. Gonzague is showing determination in spite of his serious condition. His wife also recounted some of his extraordinary feats and paid tribute to his physical exploits. As a token of appreciation for the KFA work of conservancy of our historical heritage, Mrs St-Pierre presented the KFA a trophy won by her husband for his exploits as a strong-man. All present applauded her testimony which we hope was some comfort to her as well as the spontaneous homage of Paul Kirouac from Brossard.

LAURENT KIROUAC,
WINNER OF THE DOOR PRIZE

The happy winner of the door prize, graciously offered by Jacques



(Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

From left to right: Lucille Kirouac from Saint-François, Sylvie Bernard from Sainte-Euphémie, Marie and Gertrude Kirouac from Montmagny



(Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

Lauréat Kirouac from Jonquière and his two sisters, Ghislaine and Esther with Françoise Gaudreault also from Jonquière.



(Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

Lucien Kirouac from Montréal and Paul Kirouac from Brossard



Kirouac, our founding president, was Laurent Kirouac from St-Hubert (Montreal South Shore). He will be able to spend many happy hours reading and admiring the fabulous photographs in the remarkable book entitled *La Terre vue du ciel* (Earth seen from the sky), an impressive 462-page volume by Yann Arthus-Bertrand, a magnificent work promoting respect for our planetary environment.

Warm thanks to Marie Lussier-Timperley for her 'green' door prizes and to all those who helped in one way or another to decorate the tables and hall where we met.

MUCH GRATITUDE TO OUR PAST PRESIDENT, PIERRE KIROUAC

(See text on page 14)

AN EVENING AT THE THEATRE

As a second dessert, Lucille had made arrangements for those who wished to see a play at the theatre

located in the former Kamouraska Court House. The play was fun, unusual and full of surprises. A young sea captain, obsessed by the souvenir of his famous and infamous father - a manipulating ghost to say the least, and personified by a cleverly handled puppet, embarks on an alcohol contraband expedition to the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, tiny French possessions south of Newfoundland. On a fairly calm sea we witness some rather stormy adventures, certainly as turbulent as the captain's mind totally drowned in multiple superstitions. Happily the Captain and his two mates survived and the spectators landed on terra firma but some slightly wet by the surf ... literally so for some sitting in the front rows. Congratulations to the cast.

SUNDAY MORNING MORE UNDER THE SUN

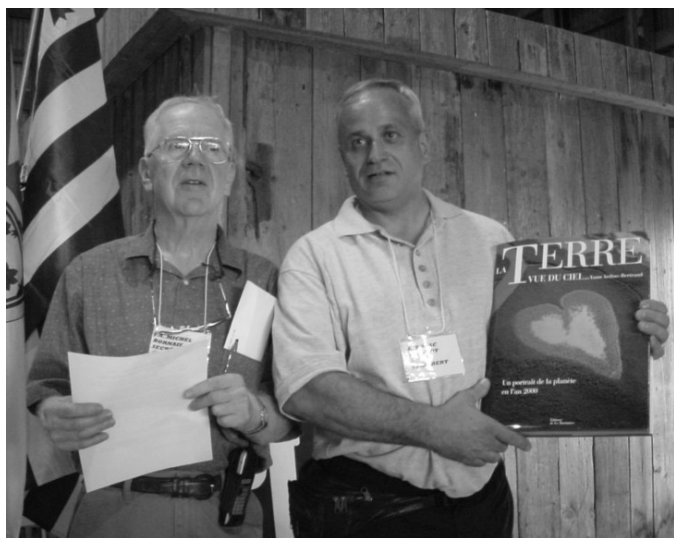
For those who wanted to prolong the pleasure, discover more and add to their happy memories, Lucille



(Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

Madame Ghyslaine St-Pierre, wife of Gonzague Kirouac from Dégelis (Quebec), talking about her famous husband who has been in the hospital for some years.

suggested the High Mass in Saint-Louis Church on Sunday morning followed by a talk by Mr. Luc St-Amand, Director of the Kamouraska Regional Museum. He gave a captivating talk on the local and regional history. Many visited the beautiful and fascinating Kamouraska Museum afterwards.



(Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

Michel Bornais and Laurent Kirouac from Saint-Hubert (Montreal south shore)



Pierre Kirouac from Boucherville, Nicole Kirouac from Dubuisson (Val D'Or, Quebec) and our hostess in Abitibi in summer 2007 and Jean Kirouac from Rosemère (Montreal north shore)

Unveiling of a monument at the Kamouraska Cradle

Speech by the President of the Association on August 5, 2006

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good afternoon and welcome to our Annual Kirouac Family Gathering!

In my name and in the name of the Board Members may I take great pleasure in welcoming you all to the Kamouraska Cradle today, where, on March 6, 1736, our common ancestor was buried. Thus it was 270 years ago that the Parish Priest, the Reverend Étienne Auclair, presided over the funeral and burial of a gentleman known as Alexandre Kéloaque.

On March 6, 1736, the whole Kamouraska parish was present to pay their last respect to our ancestor. Today, on August 5, 2006, we the descendants of he who was also known as Alexandre le Breton are gathered here to pay him another homage but also to establish his true identity finally brought to light by one of his descendants.

Before we proceed with the unveiling of the monument, I would like to invite the president of the *Corporation du Berceau de Kamouraska* (Kamouraska Cradle Corporation), Mr Guy Drapeau to say a few words.

As you can see two flags are covering the monument. The Quebec flag on top represents the actual territory of the province of Quebec then part of New France, our ancestor's adopted land, and covers the Breton flag, representing the land of origin of Alexandre le Breton.

In 1980, during the first great gathering of the Kirouac families, a memorial plaque was unveiled showing the name our ancestor gave when he was married in Cap Saint-Ignace in 1732: Maurice Louis LeBrice de Keroack. For over 260 years, he was known under this name. This plaque is in the kiosk just behind me.

In a symbolic way, the Quebec flag represents our ancestor's identity on this side of the Atlantic. The name he gave to the Parish priest of Cap St. Ignace in 1732 hid his true identity in Brittany and is represented here by a Breton flag.

I now invite Mr. Jacques Kirouac, our Association's founding president, to lift the first flag, the Quebec one as it symbolises the first step in the research for our ancestor. By founding our Association in 1978, he gave this search a frame and a structure to support the results. I also invite him to say a few words on this auspicious day.



Photo: Marie Kirouac

François Kirouac presiding at the unveiling ceremony at the Kamouraska Cradle on August 5, 2006



Photo: Caroline Bornaïs

Jacques and Alexandre Kirouac lifting the Quebec flag from the monument.



Photo: Pierre Kirouac

Éliane Tardif and Clément Kirouac lifting the Breton flag from the monument.



personally and privately took on this quest but he wanted all our ancestor's descendants to benefit from the findings. I also invite Clément to say a few words.

Now we see the Breton flag, representing our ancestor's Breton identity the land of his birth. During the two centuries that followed our ancestor's wedding, many of his descendants tried unsuccessfully to find his birthplace in Brittany. No one expected this quest to end by the discovery of a new name.

It is only in 1999, after over three years of intensive search in Quebec and Brittany that Clément Kirouac and Patricia Dagier finally uncovered Urbain François Le Bihan, sieur de Kervoac's ruse to make a new name for himself in New France.

In order to publicly ascertain for all future generations our ancestor's true identity, today the Association is proceeding with the unveiling of a new monument that shows the results of Clément Kirouac and Patricia Dagier's search. This new monument will enable visitors to this historical site of the Kamouraska Cradle to make the link between Maurice Louis LeBrice de Keroack and Urbain François Le Bihan, Sieur de Kervoac, because from now on, on this site where he was buried, are two memorial plaques installed by our Association. This double presence clarifies the facts as to our ancestor's true identity.

To proceed with this second part of the ceremony, lifting the Breton flag covering the monument, I invite the principal parties responsible for this most unexpected discovery, Clément Kirouac and his wife, Éliane Tardif, to put the final dot of this identity quest.

For posterity, it is now written in stone who was Alexandre Le Breton, alias Maurice Louis LeBrice de Keroack. In 1996, Clément



Memorial Monument unveiled at the Kamouraska Cradle on August 5, 2006.
(Photo: Caroline Bornais)



Text on the monument at the Kamouraska Cradle.
(Photo: Caroline Bornais)

On March 6, 1736, Urbain François Le Bihan was buried here under the name of Alexandre Kéloaque. A native of Huelgoat, Brittany, he is the ancestor of all Keroacks, Kirouacs and Kerouacs of North America. Descended from a family of notaries, he migrated to New France between 1721 and 1726 and went into the fur trade business. In 1732, under the name of Maurice Louis Le Brice de Kerwoach, he married Louise Bernier from Cap St-Ignace.

The 5th of August of the year 2006
Kirouac Family Association, Inc.

The President's Annual Report

Presented on behalf of the Board members

Presented at the annual general meeting on August 5, 2006 at Kamouraska

Board Meetings

Since our last Annual General Meeting there were four Board Meetings. They were held at the Restaurant *Le Petit Coin Breton* in Sainte-Foy on October 15, 2005, January 14, 2006, April 1st, 2006, and July 8, 2006.

Public relations and representations

This year, the Association made special efforts to improve its visibility in order to ensure its viability to maintain its credibility as the first reference when information on Kirouac Families and any of the descendents of the Le Bihan de Kervoac is needed.

In order to achieve this double goal, last February, we took part in the three-day event: *Salon des familles souches* at the large Place Laurier Shopping Mall in Sainte-Foy-Quebec City. Our presence made it possible to meet many people and make precious contacts for future events and activities.

Our association was also represented in the Montreal area, on June 8, by Marie Lussier Timperley at the official opening of the 75th Anniversary celebrations of the Montreal Botanical Garden, and, on June 9, at the opening of the Exhibition celebrating the collaboration between the Dufresne Brothers and Brother Marie-Victorin at the Château Dufresne Museum.

The KFA Board also authorized the First Vice-President, Pierre Kirouac, to rebuild our website. Assisted by Michel Bornais and Marie Lussier Timperley, Pierre was able to launch our new website on July 1st. It

proved to be a rather complex mandate and Pierre had to 'go back to school' to be able to complete the work. So far the number of visitors and their comments have been very satisfactory indeed. I take this opportunity to thank Pierre and his team for a great job very well done.

The United States General Consul in Quebec City, Mrs Abigaëlle Friedman, through the newspapers invited people to take part in a day of public readings of Jack Kerouac's works on the porch of the Church of St. Roch in Quebec's lower-town on Friday, July 7.

From 10:30 a.m. until 5 p.m., a long line of readers each read a few pages from Jack Kerouac's numerous works. Jacques Kirouac, Céline Kirouac, Marie Kirouac and Michel Bornais were among the readers and they also used the occasion to shed more light on some unknown or little known events in Jack's life this being a way to illustrate the constant research and preservation work done by the KFA for nearly thirty years. As a result we were called upon by CBC Vancouver for some last minute interviews; and CBC e-mailed us their thanks.

Following this media hype though at the beginning the KFA was at first a totally unknown quantity, the secretary took upon himself to add our website address in the reference pages on Jack Kerouac and Conrad Kirouac (Brother Marie-Victorin) on the internet site WIKIPEDIA, the Universal

Multilingual Encyclopedia. He also informed many media and journalists of our new website address which had just been activated.

KFA position

Concerning the project of moving the Jack Kerouac memorial away from the Kervoac land in Lanmeur, Brittany, where it was placed in July 2000, the KFA let the local authorities know that they would prefer that the memorial not be moved.

Genealogy

The genealogy computerized database is growing by leaps and bounds. To date, it holds over 13,200 names including the names of the parents of each bride and groom. Also this year, as well as accumulating all data concerning births, christenings, marriages, deaths and burials, the photo of each person, whenever available, is integrated in the database.

In a few years, it may be worth considering re-issuing our family genealogy using new technologies available.

Audio-visual Archives

Michel Bornais has nearly completed the digital archiving on DVD of some fifteen hours of films shot during our trip to Brittany in July 2000. The Return to the sources should eventually become a DVD presenting in a few hours the events of this memorable journey and it could be available for sale through the KFA if the members are interested. It is intended to do the same with various audio-visual





Board members on August 5, 2006. From left to right: Lucille Kirouac, Michel Bornais, Céline Kirouac, Pierre Kirouac, François Kirouac, René Kirouac, Marie Lussier Timperley and Marie Kirouac. (Photo: Caroline Bornais)

documents accumulated over the years.

Finance

The Board members have been looking at more ways to cut down the publishing expenses for our Bulletin *Le Trésor*. Each issue now has forty pages instead of forty-four, cutting down on weight cuts down on postage. Also fewer copies are printed for each issue. Therefore we have been able to cut our production and shipping costs by just over \$200 per issue, which represents an annual saving of over \$800.

Our distribution policy has also been modified. From now on, only one issue of *Le Trésor*, the March one, is sent to those who have not renewed their membership on time hoping to incite them to renew as soon as possible.

However, the KFA's financial health remains precarious. Every year, our membership diminishes slightly and it is only thanks to the revenues from the *Jacques Kirouac Funds* that we manage to remain out of the red.

Annual Gatherings

The Board is also analyzing and studying the situation regarding our annual gatherings given the diminishing number of participants in the last few years.

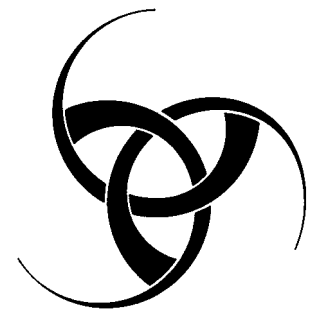
In *Le Trésor* of December 2005, the question was put to our readers but unfortunately no comments have been forthcoming from the KFA members. Ignoring the cause of the dwindling participation, the Board Members think that it could possibly be the cost factor, so this year decided to have a one-day only event instead of the usual two-day event. The activities for the second day would be by choice. The Board hopes to find out if this will increase participation.

Thank you

At the end of my first year as KFA President, I wish to thank the Board Members for their support, particularly for the planning of today's gathering. Indeed, this year it is unusual as there are no KFA members living in Kamouraska to take on the logistic of our

gathering. Therefore Lucille Kirouac, from Saint-François-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud, made sure everything was well organized in Kamouraska. The other Board Members helped to plan the day and took on various practical tasks.

I also wish to thank our regional representatives who have been regularly sending on information and news for *Le Trésor*, as well as looking after the subscription renewals.



AUCTION OF A PAINTING “THE HUELGOAT CHAOS”

On July 9, 2000, our Association unveiled a memorial plaque at *Le Chaos*, at the very heart of Huelgoat, the birth place of our ancestor in Brittany. This plaque meant to perpetuate the results of the research carried out by the then KFA President, Mr. Clément Kirouac, and the Breton genealogist Mrs. Patricia Dagier.

Mrs. Maryvonne Le Coat, a Breton painter whose family owns the land of Kervoach in Lanmeur, Brittany, welcomed the 32 Kirouacs at a special reception in their honour during their Return to the Source voyage in July 2000. In order to gain more exposure as an artist and to procure an income to the KFA, Mrs. Le Coat gave one of her works to the KFA to be

auctioned among our members. As publicized the painting would go to the highest bidder and the result would be announced during our gathering last August 5 in Kamouraska. Mrs. Nicole Kirouac, who will be our host in Abitibi, next summer, is now the happy owner of Mrs. Le Coat's painting. Many thanks indeed to the artist for her generous gift and to Nicole Kirouac for her contribution. If you wish to see the painting of the *Huelgoat Chaos* for yourself, well then, next summer make sure you go to Amos, Abitibi, for the Kirouac Annual Family Gathering on August 3-4-5, 2007.



The artist, Maryvonne LeCoat



Collection Nicole Kirouac

Nicole Kirouac proudly showing off the painting of the Huelgoat Chaos.



THANK YOU VERY MUCH PIERRE!

Kamouraska, August 5, 2006

Below is the text read by KFA Secretary, J. A. Michel Bornais, first cousin of Pierre Kirouac from Trois-Rivières.

As tradition dictates, The Kirouac Family Association is keen on paying homage to its past presidents and we could not possibly keep silent about the contribution of one who captained the ship during four years since being elected in Issoudun in 2002.

If we speak about him as Captain of the ship, it is not because he rocked the boat quite the opposite, he showed real leadership in taking our Association a long way, even to the other side of the Atlantic when, as vice-president of the KFA, he piloted us to Brittany for our remarkable Return to the Source voyage in 2000. We were the happy beneficiary of his experience at the helm and his talent as master and commander were recognized as he was elected president for a second term.

Earlier on, in 1993, he had invited us all to Trois-Rivières for our annual family gathering. The historical site of the old iron-works (Les Vieilles-Forges) was bucolic and romantic but, unfortunately, he had no power over the heating system, nor did he get any help from the iron-works' devil and, ironically, it was a lack of fire - under the roasting pit - that pushed up his blood pressure. A rational man by nature and used to calculation by training, he showed calm and wisdom and no rough sea could sway him from his destination.

In 2005, once more the Kirouacs

from Trois-Rivières welcomed us all with open heart and it was a pleasure to discover some of the town's historical treasures. His latest ongoing endeavour and mission is the rebuilding of our Website. The results are spectacular but it was no easy feat; first it meant going back to school to learn and become skilled at the surfing technique essential to a Webmaster. Basically self-taught he must now keep learning to navigate through the countless computer meanders more intricate than the Louisiana bayous without GPS. Well, perhaps he will have to count on the stars . . . our stars: Brother Marie-Victorin and Jack; whichever he follows he is likely to be 'on the road' for a very long time.

It is with obvious pleasure and gratitude that we say a thousand times over: thank you Pierre for your generous steering at the helm of our Kirouac Family Association during four years and for your ongoing contribution to the benefit of all.



Michel Bornais thanking Pierre Kirouac of Trois-Rivières for his remarkable work on the KFA Board since 1993.

Photo: Pierre Kirouac

THE KAMOURASKA CRADLE

On August 5, 2006, our association proceeded with the unveiling of a monument on the site of the Kamouraska Cradle in homage to our ancestor, Urbain-François Le Bihan, Sieur de Kervoac. For your information, in 1993, the historian, Pierre Dufour, at the request of the Environmental Services of the Quebec Transportation Department, published a report where one finds some interesting facts about this historical site.

"In his study on Kamouraska, Reverend Paradis reckons that there are about 1300 people buried in the cemetery known as the Cradle, e.g. the one located on the south side of the main road, because he did not know that another cemetery existed.

However, only 462 burials were recorded between the years 1727 and 1765 inclusively. Given that the population growth rate accelerated between 1766 and 1793, the approximate figure of 1300 seems right.

Among the 462 people buried there, 58 or 12 % were not from the parish. As for the 404 Kamouraska parishioners buried in the cemetery, 252 or 62 % were less than fifteen year old when they died; most of these children, that is 193 of them, were indeed less than a year old.

If the same percentages are applied to the approximate total of 1300 people buried at the "Cradle", it gives the following results: 156 people would be outsiders, 710 parishioners would be less than fifteen years old at the time of death and it leaves 434 adult parishioners. This simply provides a scale but it is probably quite close



Photo: Caroline Bornaïs

Several KFA members present at the unveiling of the Memorial Monument to Urbain-François Le Bihan on August 5, 2006, at the Kamouraska Cradle.

to the facts: therefore about one third of those buried at the "Cradle" would be adult Kamouraska parishioners, meaning old enough to procreate.

These figures are useful in order to better understand and interpret what Reverend Paradis asserts a number of times in his study: that the 1300 people buried in the "Cradle" cemetery are the ancestors to over 80,000 people living nowadays in Quebec, Canada and the United States."

"(...) Unfortunately the Kamouraska records before 1727 were destroyed. However, thanks to research done by the Université de Montréal, as part of a Research Project in Historical Demography, we have been able to put together a list of the people buried in the "Cradle" cemetery between 1727 and 1765 inclusively. During all

those years, the records were kept on a very regular basis except for one period: nothing was recorded between November 18, 1748, and October 17, 1751, during almost three years."

In these records, we find the burial deed of our ancestor dated March 6, 1736. The previous day, on March 5, one Joseph Michaud, son of Pierre Michaud and Marie-Madeleine Cadieu, aged eighteen, was buried. The next burial was on March 29, that of a man named Jean Boucher, aged 31.

THE EDITORIAL BOARD





From left to right: Marie Kirouac, Gabrielle Hurtubise, Pierre Kirouac, Monique Hurtubise and Jean Kirouac



Denise Trudelle, Lilliane Berthelot, Pauline and Éliane Tardif.

Photo: Pierre Kirouac

KAMOURASKA 2006 GATHERING

REVENUES	Cost per person	No.		
Supper - adults	\$22.00	64	\$1,408.00	
Supper - children	\$6.00	2	\$12.00	
Theatre	\$13.00	43	\$559.00	
Museum	\$3.00	36	\$108.00	
Gift			\$21.70	
Sale of Mrs. Le Coat's painting			\$150.00	
TOTAL REVENUES				\$2,258.70
EXPENSES				
Hall rental			\$135.00	
Catering	\$13.00	63	\$819.00	
Caterers' tip			\$81.00	
Theatre	\$13.00	40	\$520.00	
Museum	\$3.00	33	\$99.00	
Postage			\$193.53	
Photocopies			\$55.21	
TOTAL EXPENSES				\$1,902.74
Excess revenues over expenses				\$355.96

REVEREND LÉON LABERGE

Léon Laberge, born in St-Dominique Parish in Jonquière, on September 6, 1928, is the son of the late François Laberge, farmer and Émilie Kéroack (02442). He did his classical studies (high school) partly at the Saint-Alphonse Seminary in Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré from 1944 to 1946 and carried them on in Arvida from 1946 to 1948 and completed them (College level) at the Small Seminary in Chicoutimi from 1948 to 1952. Afterwards, he did his theological studies at the Grand Seminary in Chicoutimi from 1952 to 1956. On May 26, 1956, he was ordained to the priesthood in the Chicoutimi Cathedral by His Excellency Georges Melançon, Bishop of the Diocese.

He was Vicar in Saint-Joseph in Alma, from May to September 1956, and was also appointed to the Small Seminary in Chicoutimi where he worked until June 1957 as 'maître de sale' (study hall master), and professor of religion and history. He was also the first Chaplain of the Dominique-Savio Catholic Scouts group in 1956-1957.

In February 1957, he became the Chaplain (called Padre) of the Saguenay Regiment until December 1960. Afterwards he became the vicar of the Holy-Family Parish in Kénogami from August 1957 until August 1959; then vicar in Sainte-Thérèse Parish in Dolbeau from August 1959 until March 1960 and again Vicar at Saint-Joseph Parish in Alma from March to September 1960 before becoming Vicar of Saint-Nazaire Parish from September to November 1960.

From November 1960 to February 1966, he was appointed Vicar/Chaplain to the Canadian Armed Forces, with the rank of Captain. Afterwards he was transferred to Petawawa training Camp in Ontario from December 1960 to September

1961; to the Valcartier Training Camp near Quebec City, from September 1961 to May 1964 and to Gagetown Training Camp in New Brunswick, from May 1964 to February 1966.

After a well needed rest from February to April 1966, he was appointed Vicar in St. Marc Parish in Bagotville until August 1966, then Vicar in St. Alexis Parish in Port-Alfred. During this period he was also Chaplain to the Lacordaire Association for the Baie des Ha! Ha! area until September 1967.

From September 1967 to June 1969, he was Chaplain to the Technological Institute in Chicoutimi; the first two months, he was residing at the Small Seminary then moved closer to the Technological Institute for the rest of his Chaplaincy. From March to July 1970, he was Chaplain to the new hospital in Baie des Ha ! Ha ! Then he went back to parish work in Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes in Girardville in February and March 1970. From July 1970 until July 1971, he was 'resting' at his residence on Centennial Boulevard; but during that time, he studied at UQC e.g. the University of Quebec in Chicoutimi and obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Religious Education. He was still Chaplain, 'on call' to help with the parish ministry in July and August 1971 in Chicoutimi, as well as helping on demand at St. Mathias Parish in Arvida from May 26 and October 1st, 1973.

From August 1971 to August 1972, he was Vicar in St. Anne Parish in Chicoutimi-North. Then from September 1972 until August 1973, he studied Holy Scriptures at Laval University in Quebec City.



Reverend Léon Laberge son of François Laberge and Émilie Kéroack (02442)

He returned to St. Mathias Parish in Arvida as Vicar in October 1973 until October 1975.

From October 1975 until September 18, 1981, he was Parish Priest of Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes in Girardville. He returned as Vicar to St. Claire Parish in Chicoutimi-North from September 1981 until February 1982. After another period of rest, he was appointed Parish Priest at *Christ-Roi Cathedral* in Chicoutimi from November 1982 until June 1993.

Since 1986, Reverend Laberge has been the Chaplain of the Royal Canadian Legion in Chicoutimi, Branch 235, as well as for District No. 3 of Saguenay-Lake-St-Jean-North-Shore. Since August 14, 1997, he is also the Chaplain of *Union régionale des gardes paroissiales* (Regional Union of Parish Honour Guards) for the Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean, and the Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus for the whole Diocese and he still finds time to help with the Parish ministry.



LÉON LABERGE, 50 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD

BY ALBERT THIBODEAU

Sunday, May 21, 2006, was a great day for the Reverend Léon Laberge. He celebrated his 50th anniversary of priesthood in the Christ-Roi Cathedral in Chicoutimi in the presence of relatives and numerous friends. The holy place was full to capacity. Many Diocese Dignitaries were present. Among the crowd one could note the various social groups wearing their distinctive uniforms. The Knights of Columbus formed the guard of honour when the fêted guest entered and left; and the Parish Honour Guards were on hand to lead people to their seats. The parish choir enhanced the occasion with their beautiful singing.

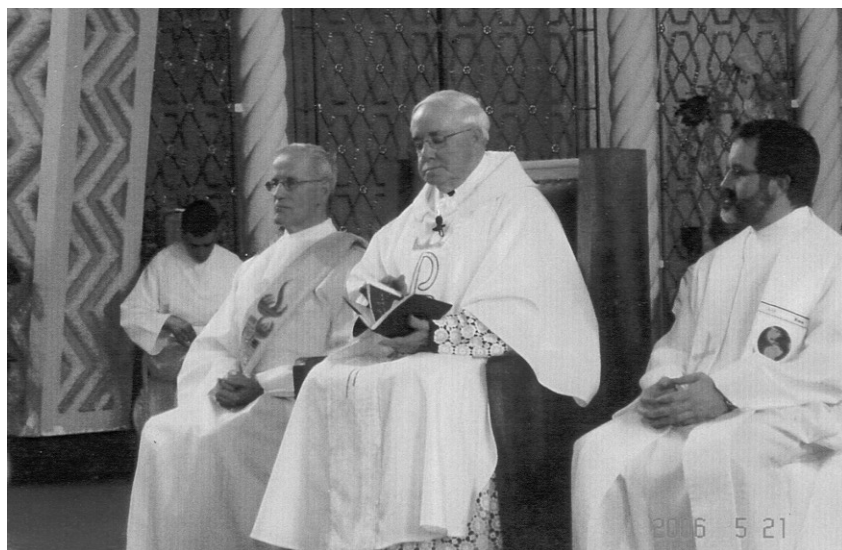
The celebration committee did everything in its power to ensure a real success. Five-hundred guests sat for dinner at Le Montagnais Hotel. All appreciated the catering,

wine and wonderful service. There were roses on all the tables for the ladies present, a kind gesture of Reverend Léon. At the end of the banquet, the hero of the day thanked one and all who followed him through all these years as he carried out his religious and social vocation.

I met Reverend Léon in 1959 when he was appointed Vicar to the St. Thérèse Parish in Dolbeau. A man of conviction, he knew how to gather young people and recommend sound activities. Then and now, he gave his time freely, he was and still is always at the service of people. Right from the beginning, when I first met him, I considered him an inspiration and a collaborator who took a great interest in youth. He gave young people the chance and the opportunity to answer challenges, take on responsibilities in society. For him, there was no such thing as a proper place to meet people who



Reverend Léon Laberge on May 21, 2006



Reverend Léon Laberge on May 21, 2006

asked him for help whether material or spiritual. Once I even saw him confess a young man in a bar. He was a real 'apostle'; but often the way he went about it brought upon him the wrath of the authorities; nevertheless, he kept on walking the straight path to comfort the afflicted.

Leader: through life he designed and supervised a multitude of projects to better the quality of life for our community; listing them all would be an endless task. He worked in all areas of life even in the army. When working for the betterment of people, nothing would hold him back. He never lived in an ivory tower; he was always reaching out to people.

Dynamic: He served as Chaplain for most community movements in the diocese and wherever he happened to be working. He was an excellent guide for the members of these organizations. His precious advice constantly led to positive improvement within the community.

Man of Service: He always found time to support and help others whenever the need arose. He spent countless hours doing things for others; regularly visiting the sick and elderly who found his presence and counselling most comforting in their need.

Man of Faith: He was a true disciple of Jesus showing an unshakeable faith. He never wavered in his religious conviction and commitment to spread the Good News. He spoke and still speaks openly to people to help them find new hope. Spiritual strength holds him fast in daily life and it shines through his personality. In his fifty years of priesthood he always walked the straight path with dignity.

During this half-century, we continually kept in touch. The bonds created when we first met are still strong. At all time he remained close to our families, was present at each christening, marriage, and burial. He was always keen to share our joys and sorrows.

To conclude, my friend Léon is a great man and I will, forever, have fond memories of him. Lucette and my whole family join me in paying him this well-deserved homage.

Albert Thibodeau, a long-time friend.



Reverend Léon Laberge

DEATH OF ROBERT KIROUAC

In Arthabaska on September 11, 2006, at the age of 96 years, Robert Kirouac (00799) passed away, the husband of Lumina Labrecque. He was the father of Clément Kirouac, former president of our association.

Robert was mentioned several times in *Le Trésor*. In his memory, we invite you to reread those passages in Issue number 80 on page 18 and in Issue number 56 on pages 4-5 and 14.



Photo: Clément Kirouac



Homage to Mrs. Marie Leclerc

Mrs. Marie Leclerc passed away on December 6, 2005, at the age of 97.

She was born in Sainte-Justine-de-Langevin. She was housekeeper to the Reverend Jules-Adrien Kirouac when he was the parish priest in Sainte-Justine. When her ashes were buried in Sainte-Justine on May 22, 2006, Marie and Jacques Kirouac represented our Association. Both had the pleasure to get to know her well particularly while planning our annual gathering there in 1998.

In the spring of 1998, while preparing the *Trésor des Kirouac*, number 52, Marie, Jacques and François had the wonderful opportunity to meet Reverend Jules-Adrien Kirouac's last housekeeper. During a number of meetings with Mrs. Leclerc, trying to better understand the personality of Reverend Jules-Adrien, she told many anecdotes about life at the

vicarage in Sainte-Justine-de-Langevin. She particularly enjoyed listening to Reverend Jules play the euphonium ⁽¹⁾ on the porch of the rectory on warm summer evenings. As one of the eight sons of the Chevalier François Kirouac, former mayor of Saint-Sauveur (Quebec City area), Jules-Adrien grew up in a family where music always held an important place so it was natural for him to carry on playing a musical instrument through life.

Mrs. Leclerc also spoke with great emotion about the infamous Saturday, May 23, 1936, when at 9 a.m., the church, "his small cathedral as he used to say", burned to the ground. He had supervised the construction of the church and he was so hard hit by this immense loss, that Reverend Jules-Adrien Kirouac handed his resignation as parish priest of Sainte-Justine after 26 years of untiring devotion to his parishioners. Afterwards, Mrs.



Marie Leclerc, housekeeper to
Reverend Jules Adrien Kirouac
(Collection Association des familles Kirouac)

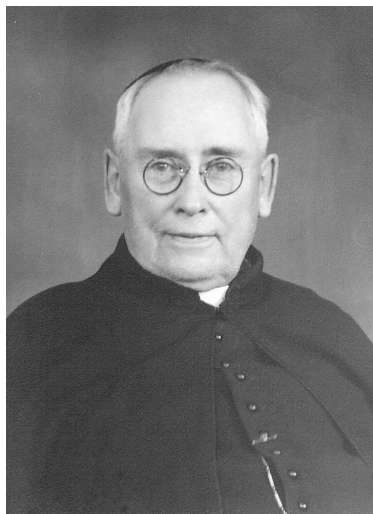
Leclerc often visited him in Saint-Damien-de-Bellechasse where he was retired at the Convent of the Sisters of Notre-Dame-du-Perpétuel-Secours enjoying a well deserved retirement.

She had been very devoted to Reverend Jules-Adrien so was pleased to join our Association and she was keen to receive our Bulletin *Le Trésor*. For her, the name Kirouac had always been synonym of generosity, intelligence and great soul and reminded her of the many wonderful years of her youth spent working at the Rectory in her native village looking after Reverend Jules-Adrien. Though it was so long ago, she still remembered the Kirouac family members who often visited Reverend Jules-Adrien and how everyone was always so courteous towards her.

Mrs. Leclerc became a regular participant in our annual gatherings. On August 15 and 16, 1998, in Sainte-Justine-de-Langevin, she joined in paying homage to her former parish priest. On August 15, 1999, we were honoured to



Marie Kirouac with Mrs. Marie Leclerc in Warwick during the summer of 1999. (Collection Association des familles Kirouac)



Rev. Jules Adrien Kirouac, son of François and Marie Julie Hamel

welcome her at our annual gathering in Warwick. Then on June 24, 2000, Mrs. Leclerc was delighted to take part with Marie, Jacques and François, at the official opening of the observation tower on the Benedictine Monks' estate in Sainte-Justine-de-Langevin that was only literally only feet away from her family's ancestral land. Finally, on September 10, 2000, she took part in the KFA gathering in Cap Saint-Ignace. She was so proud to be a member of our Association.

During the last years of her life, after moving to Saint Brigid's Home, Mrs. Leclerc asked her niece, Mrs. Mireille Lapointe, to give many objects that belonged to Reverend Jules-Adrien Kirouac to the KFA. We are very grateful to the family for preserving these treasures during all those years and for passing them on to us. However, as our Association's mandate is to preserve essentially documents, photographs and books, we would like these artefacts, sacred vestments and other items, eventually enrich the museum located in the building of the Benedictine Monks in Sainte-Justine-de-Langevin.

This museum is administered by the *Société du patrimoine de Sainte-Justine* (St. Justine Heritage

Society), this association gave us such a warm welcome in 1998. This organization's mandate is to preserve Sainte-Justine's heritage whatever it may be. They will know how best to preserve Mrs. Leclerc's treasures.

Whenever you visit the Museum, remember that many artefacts exhibited there will tell you the life story of Reverend Jules-Adrien Kirouac thanks to the generous donations of Mrs. Marie Leclerc.

The Editorial Board

(1) *Euphonium*: Brass instrument of English origin, a small version of the tuba.



While he was parish priest in Sainte-Justine from 1910 to 1936, Reverend Jules-Adrien Kirouac used to play the *euphonium*, a Brass instrument of English origin, a small tuba.



Photo: Marie Kirouac

Marie Leclerc with Jacques Kirouac in Cap Saint-Ignace in September 2000

Photo: Marie Kirouac



August 16, 1998. Marie Leclerc with retired notary, Georges-Octave Langlois, during the exhibition on Reverend Jules-Adrien Kirouac in Sainte-Justine.





1931 - 2006: The CJN is 75 years old!!

75 years at the service of nature, science and the environment

The Cercles des Jeunes Naturalistes (Young Naturalist Clubs) are celebrating the 75th anniversary of their foundation this year.

"Founded in 1931, the CJN were at first organized and supported by the Société Canadienne d'Histoire Naturelle (Canadian Society of Natural History). At the time of their foundation the media presented it as The Scientific Awakening of the French Canadian Youth. In 1936, the Government of the Province of Quebec declared the CJN to be a "public service". In 1957, the CJN became autonomous and were incorporated with Patent Letters. The Parent Commission strongly recommended the foundation of CJN group in all the schools and teaching institutions as a first class complement to general education. Mr. Jean-Paul Matte, special assistant to the Honourable Jean Chrétien, wrote on August 27, 1970: "The value of the CJN is well established and its work is admired by all naturalists".⁽¹⁾

Great provincial gathering

It is with pleasure and honour that the Kirouac Family Association accepted the invitation to join the great provincial gathering to mark the 75th anniversary on Saturday, October 7, 2006 at the Montreal Botanical Garden.

Brother Marie-Victorin was present during the whole day thanks to Louis Lavoie's skilful portrayal of the great educator and accomplished communicator. The illusion was almost perfect to everyone's great satisfaction. Once more everybody was able to



Thanks to the remarkable performance of Louis Lavoie, Lucie Jasmin, newly elected KFA Board Member, finally had the privilege to meet Brother Marie-Victorin.
(Collection Association des familles Kirouac)

appreciate his talent. Every minute was a great testimony to the respect and admiration that Mr. Lavoie feels for Brother Marie-Victorin and we can be most grateful to him. Hats off and congratulations.

At 1:00 p.m. the Honorable Lise Thibault, Quebec Lieutenant Governor, was on hand for the tree planting ceremony. What a great lady she is. Her kindness and sensitivity make her the perfect person to fill her most demanding position and she does it with warmth and compassion. Once a young naturalist herself, she always remained so and kindly let the Mrs Louise Harel, Deputy, also proclaimed the same attachment to the Cercles des Jeunes Naturalistes.

Answering the CJN invitation, the KFA manned an information booth all day. Marie Lussier-Timperley, Lucie Jasmin

and the Secretary, took turns answering and informing people.

The most frequent reaction from the public was their surprise to see side by side the photographs of Brother Marie-Victorin and Jack Kerouac; for many this was rather strange. Even fewer knew that Brother Marie-Victorin was first baptized Conrad Kirouac.

The day ended with the visit of the magical Chinese Gardens with their hundreds of colourful lanterns. From 5 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. the hour-long waiting lines were quite impressive. Whether Marie-Victorin or Conrad Kirouac, our illustrious "cousin" can be justly proud of his work and even more so nowadays.

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

⁽¹⁾ From the CJN official invitation to the 75th anniversary.



Yolande Genest, our secretary's wife, and grandson Charles-Éric proudly stand next to the Honourable Lise Thibault, Quebec's Lieutenant Governor, who much enjoyed Charles-Eric's rendering of a toad's call during the presentation by Nathalie Picard, artist from Loretteville's Huron-Wendate Indian Nation. (Collection Association des familles Kirouac)



Marie Lussier Timperley and Lucie Jasmin, both KFA Board Members, with Brother Marie-Victorin a.k.a. Louis Lavoie, comedian. (Collection Association des Familles Kirouac)



The Honourable Lise Thibault with Nathalie Picard, artist from Loretteville's Huron-Wendate Indian Nation and Mr. Louis Lavoie portraying Brother Marie-Victorin. (Collection Association des Familles Kirouac)



OFFICIAL INAUGURATION OF THE MEMORIAL GARDEN AND BLESSING OF THE NEW MONUMENT TO OUR ANCESTOR

THE KAMOURASKA CRADLE

After many years of intensive work the Corporation of the Kamouraska Cradle finally saw the happy day when it could be announced that His Excellency Clément Fecteau, Bishop of the diocese of Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, accompanied by Mr. Claude Béchar, Deputy for Kamouraska-Témiscouata and Minister of Long-term Development and Environment and Parks, would be on hand for the official inauguration of the new landscaping enhancing the Memorial Garden.

The KFA Founding President, Jacques Kirouac, and the KFA Secretary, J. A. Michel Bornais, were mandated to represent the Association on this beautiful afternoon, on Monday, September 11, 2006, to take part in the ceremony at the invitation of the Corporation President, Mr. Guy Drapeau. Among the dignitaries present, were the Kamouraska Mayor as well as the planners, artists and volunteers who contributed to this project.

On such a happy and exceptional occasion, Mr. Jacques Kirouac invited Bishop Clément Fecteau to bless the new



Jacques Kirouac with Mr Alain Dionne who made the Memorial Monument for the Kamouraska Cradle.

monument in memory of our ancestor. At the unveiling of the monument on August 5, 2006, it had not been possible to proceed with the blessing as no one was on hand to do so.

Photo: Michel Bornais



During the inauguration of the Kamouraska Cradle, His Excellency Clément Fecteau, Bishop of La Pocatière, was very happy to bless the new Monument erected in memory of our Ancestor on August 5, 2006; here with Jacques Kirouac, KFA founding President.

Meeting Jan Kerouac, the beginning of a unique experience

by Jacques Kirouac

Part 2

In fact, I met her in the lobby of her hotel near Times Square. Right away I saw a difference in the way she looked, compared to those previous occasions some years ago. Her skin was no longer smooth and youthful, being darker and having the appearance of parchment. Her blue eyes, although still very bright, had some jaundice in the white part. She was almost skinny. She appeared to be unwell, if not actually gravely ill. After some discussion in her room, I left her with her friend Gerry Nicosia. We had both agreed that she was quite vulnerable, partly on account of her daily four dialyses she had to submit to and the medication she also had to take. I felt sorry to see her that way and Gerry and I agreed

to take good care of her. The next day, walking on the streets, I noticed another problem: she had difficulty keeping her balance; someone had to hold her arm.

It would be too long to make a complete account of the four days while we were together. I will only recall some facts which are related to Jan's main concerns at the time: her lawsuit against the Sampas to save her father's literary heritage. I soon found out that the main reason she was in New York was to take part in the Symposium on Jack Kerouac, seeing it as a unique chance to prevail against the Sampas family and win her rights to her father's estate.

Another day on the sidewalk in



Jan Kerouac

front of the Town Hall, with a group of demonstrators backing her cause, she acted as a "cheerleader." I was surprised to see her shouting in a loud voice and almost jumping with a placard that had "KEROUAC GATE" written on it. And she was. To me, she appeared to be at least twenty years younger, and at the same time I was happy to see her taking part in a youth demonstration but also sad because I knew that her burst of energy was only temporary. After that we went to a restaurant where she ate less than half the food she had been served. She was exhausted and left again for a dialysis.

In fact, she was not well at all during her time in New York, as she also had a sore on her foot that was very painful. In spite of all that, she wanted to make a short speech at the opening of the symposium on her father at New York University. I was at her side when she stood to

Collection Jacques Kirouac



Jan Kerouac & Jacques Kirouac, Washington Square, New York, June 6, 1995



walk towards the stage, intending to speak at the microphone. Her “godfather” Allen Ginsberg was the master of ceremonies.

Unfortunately, nervous and frail as she was, she did not reach the narrow staircase to the stage before her way was already blocked by the programme director of NYU, Helen Kelly. Then the police escorted her and I outside the hall to the sidewalk. I saw her giving a press conference in front of the conference hall, near Washington Square. Very quietly and not raising her voice, she put forward her point of view on her quest to save Jack’s papers. After answering some questions, she then concluded, saying: “I leave the rest to Gerry Nicosia, because I am too sick to keep talking.”

We were very disappointed but she gave a press conference outside. I must say that one of the panellists came to tell me that he approved Jan’s stand but that he could not express his point of view publicly! Jan was apparently irritating many of the university’s administrators who made it clear that she was not welcome.

In spite of her illness and the stress due to her struggle to save Jack’s papers, Jan did not forget the hard years of her childhood when she had lived not far from Washington Square Park, where the two of us went for a walk. While sitting on a bench, her purse fell to the ground and almost all its content was scattered around, including her



Photo: Marie-Andrée Cossette

Jan Kerouac, Los Angeles 1978
(From the book *Memory Babe*, with permission of Gerald Nicosia)

money. So I got up to pick up the money. Then she told me: “Jacques, leave that there for the poor.” As I sat back on the bench, she told me that while living in Manhattan’s the Lower East Side, she would walk barefoot on the sidewalks trying to find some food in garbage bins. She also told me of stealing money from the poor box to feed herself, and offered to show me the church where she had done that. She told me all these things without any bitterness.

In spite of her illness and the stress due to her struggle to save Jack’s papers, Jan did not forget the hard years of her childhood when she had lived not far from Washington Square Park, where the two of us went for a walk. While sitting on a bench, her purse fell to the ground and almost all its content was scattered around, including her money. So I got up to pick up the

money. Then she told me: “Jacques, leave that there for the poor.” As I sat back on the bench, she told me that while living in Manhattan’s the Lower East Side, she would walk barefoot on the sidewalks trying to find some food in garbage bins. She also told me of stealing money from the poor box to feed herself, and offered to show me the church where she had done that. She told me all these things without any bitterness.

Still, during that period of her life, she sent me a very moving letter that remains unpublished (1). Like her father in *Visions of Gerard*, she evokes what was then thought to be our family motto when she wrote: “I now understand fully the Kerouac Family motto: *AIMER, TRAVAILLER et SOUFFRIR* (= *LOVE, WORK AND SUFFER*). I love my father, work on my book and suffer endlessly from health

problems.” First she applied the family motto to herself. Her first love she said went to her father whom she had been searching for through her entire life. Her work was writing and, at that moment, she was working on *Parrot Fever*, but due to her severe illness, she could not complete that book which would have concluded the trilogy. It is interesting to note that Jan, like her father, was evoking suffering not only as an intellectual topic but also as a personal matter. She referred to the family motto to point out her ties with the Kerouacs the same way her father had used that same family motto to connect with his Breton origins. A little bit further, she concluded with: “I hope you wonderful people of *Les Familles Kerouac* will take up the fight to preserve our honour because I am now too weak to fight anymore.”

That letter was written on August 17, 1995, less than a year before her

death. Her health was still deteriorating, but she wanted to keep on with the lawsuit against the Sampas. She appreciated the moral support of our Family Association, which she considered as being her own family, but the actual work on the ground was done by Gerry Nicosia, whom she valued as the only one to help her in the United States. In Jan’s mind, the lawsuit was more than strictly personal for she wrote that it concerned “our honour.” Jack’s only daughter felt very lonely at the end of her life but she relied on the Kirouac Family Association to help her. It is significant that in the United States, the badge with our crest became the rallying symbol for Jan’s supporters. Jan on her personal card had a “fleur de lys” symbol of her French roots. I saw that Jan, at the end of her life, was getting closer to her own family, so it was not surprising, but rather meaningful, that she wanted to be buried in the Kerouac family plot in Nashua,



Collection Jacques Kirouac

Jan Kerouac, New York, June 6, 1995, a year before her death.

New Hampshire, even though she had never lived there.

I received her last postcard in April 1996. She mainly wrote to me that she was tired from the lawsuit and from all the delays caused by the Sampas. But in spite of all that, she was planning a trip to Lowell in the coming fall.

At the end of May, only nine days before her death, I received her last phone call, she was coming out of hospital but going to a nursing home on account of her illness. She told me she was now sure she was Jack’s daughter because of her blood disease. But she was confident on getting better, because she intended to go to St Petersburg, Florida, with her ex-sister-in-law and always her friend, Deborah Bower, for the lawsuit against the Sampas to save Jack’s papers. She

Collection Jacques Kirouac



On June 5, 1997, Anniversary Service for Jan Kerouac celebrated by Reverend Roland Côté.



told about no longer being able to travel alone, but there was not a single word about her third book.

At the end of that call, she told me she would send me a photo of her with the flowers I had sent her at the hospital. Instead, I got a phone call from Deborah Bower in early June telling me that “Jan had passed away the previous night.” I was very distressed by the news, and even six years after her death, I am still moved just by writing those lines. In fact, I was saddened by the entire end of her life when she was fighting strongly to save Jack’s papers. She really suffered from the opposition of the Sampas family who controlled her father’s estate. If her first two books were mostly autobiographic, the third one was different and more difficult to produce; it would prove to be too much for Jan, who told me in New York that she knew she would die within a few years. So she left us with an incomplete work but one that is more analytical of her own life, as I found out while reading some excerpts from *Parrot Fever* she gave me in New York on June 3, 1995, for my birthday.

EPILOGUE

When Jan passed away on June 5, 1996, her funeral took place at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Albuquerque. Deborah Bower, her ex-sister-in-law who looked after Jan through her illness up to her death in hospital, arranged the funeral service.



On June 5, 1997, KFA representatives at Jan Kerouac’s Anniversary Service in Nashua: Left to right: Alberte Garon and Jacques Kirouac, Claire Kirouac, Clément Kirouac and Jean-Yves Kirouac. Éliane Tardif is behind the camera.

In 1997, David Bower, Jan’s half brother, wanted to bury Jan’s ashes in the Nashua Cemetery on February 16, Jan’s birthday. He gratefully accepted my suggestion to plan the first anniversary funeral service in the presence of Jan’s ashes on June 5, 1997, in Nashua. Reverend Father Roland Côté, Curate of the parish in Nashua, presided the funeral Mass and three Franco-American sang in French. It was a private service for relatives and friends of Jan. Three couples from Quebec represented our family

association. The Curate also said the last prayers at the cemetery.

Jan was finally at the end of her earthly voyage; back with her own in the family plot, with her grandparents, after so many painful years on a rather rough road. Let us remember Jan in our prayers.

(1) This text was written in 2002, six years after Jan’s passing, and the letter was eventually published in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 76, June 2004, pp. 31- 33.





IN MEMORIAM



Brouillet, Hubert

At home, on June 30, 2006, Hubert Brouillet passed away at the age of 71. Formerly from L'Assomption, he was the son of the late Fabiola Jobin and the late Charles Brouillet. He leaves to mourn his wife, Monique Hurtubise, daughter of Germaine Kirouac (00842); his daughters: Anne-Marie, Martine (Charles S. Murry), Lorraine and Christine; his grandsons: Mathew, Alexandre, Marc-André Murry and Guillaume Couture; his brothers and sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-laws, and many nephews and nieces. He was buried at the Repos St-François d'Assise Cemetery, Montreal, on Monday, July 3, 2006.

De Roy, Norbert

In Saint-Pâcome, on September 16, 2006, Norbert De Roy passed away at the age of 75 years and eleven months. He was the son of Frédéric De Roy and Elmina Kirouac (02272). He was the brother of Sister Laura and Sister Marie-Thérèse, of the Congregation of Servantes du Saint-Cœur-de-Marie. He was a baker in Saint-Philippe-de-Néri.

Fortin, Adrien

At the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital in Quebec City, on July 27, 2006, Adrien Fortin passed away aged 73 years and four months. He was the son of the late Alfred (Freddy) Fortin and the late Catherine Kirouac (02273). He lived in Quebec City and previously in St-Apolline. The funeral was held in the presence of the ashes on Saturday, July 29, 2006, in St-Roch Church in Quebec City. He was buried the same day in the Cemetery of St-Apolline-de-Patton, County of Montmagny. He leaves to mourn: his sisters: Solange (late Donat Noël), Colette, s.s.c.m. and his sister-in-law Aline Bissonette (late Donat Fortin). He was the brother of the late Alexandrine (late Bill Clarke), the late Aline (late Jacques Côté), the late Réal (late Laurentienne Bérubé).

Kirouac, Léonard

At the CHUL (Laval University Hospital), on June 24, 2006, Léonard Kirouac passed away at the age of 84. He was the son of the late Catherine Hugues and the late Albert Kirouac (02650) and widower of the late Germaine Poitras. Liturgy of the Word was celebrated on June 28, in the Chapel of the Memorial Park La Souvenance in Ste-Foy. He leaves to mourn his children: James (Claire Therrien), Clément (Nicole Picard),

Paul (Marie-Claire Labbé), Nancy (Yvon Bélanger), Jocelyne (Richard Lebel) as well as many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law.

Kirouac, Robert

In Arthabaska, on September 11, 2006, Robert Kirouac (00799) passed away at the age of 96. He was the widower of the late Lumina Labrecque and the father of Clément (Éliane Tardif), (KFA President from 1994 to 2000), Paul (Pauline Beaudoin), Renaud (Denise Pépin), Marguerite (Gilles Latulippe) and André (Claudette Langlois). He also leaves thirteen grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren. The funeral was held on September 16 in the parish church of Warwick followed by interment in the parish cemetery.

Kirouac Fournier, Colette

At the retirement home in Saint-Casimir, on March 10, 2006, aged ninety years and four months, Colette Kirouac (02315) passed away. She was the widow of the late Fernand Fournier. The funeral was held on March 16, in the Church of Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs in Porneuf followed by burial in the parish cemetery. She leaves to mourn, her daughters: Denise (Jean-Yves Bélanger) and Yvette (Patrick-Eugène Doré), five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, as well as her sister Cécile Kirouac (the late Armand Trépanier) and her brother Antoine (Gisèle Bédard).

Kirouac Leblanc, Pauline

At Habitation Mgr (Bishop) Deschênes in Montmagny, on September 13, 2006, Pauline Kirouac (00409), widow of the late Jules Leblanc, passed away at the age of 72. She lived in Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud, County of Montmagny. The funeral was held on September 18, 2006, in the Church of Saint-Pierre followed by burial in the Parish cemetery. She was the daughter of the late Charles Kirouac (00405) and the late Maria Boissonneault. She leaves to mourn, her son, Richard (Guylaine Boulet), her two grandchildren: Élisabeth and Julien; she was the sister of the late Lucien (Gisèle Couture), the late Jacqueline (late Charles-Henri Blanchet), the late Doris (Aimé Gagné), the late Lorraine (Bernard Hébert), Claudette (Jean-Guy Gaudreau), Nicol

(Ginette Roy), her brother-in-law and her sisters-in-law: the late Joseph Leblanc (Anita Blais), the late François Leblanc (Gabrielle Godbout), the late Marguerite Leblanc (Nazaire Gaudreau).

Soucy, Jacques

Jacques Soucy, retired professor from UQTR (Université du Québec in Trois-Rivières), who passed away at the age of 76, at the Maison Albatros in Trois-Rivières, on August 21, 2006, was the son of the late Paul-Henri Soucy and the late Léonie Marceau. The funeral was held on Friday, August 25, in Trois-Rivières and the burial will take place at a later date in Belmont Cemetery in Quebec City. Mr. Soucy leaves to mourn, his wife, Jacqueline Baril; his daughters-in-law: Linda Turgeon (Marc-André Lapointe), Nancy Turgeon (François Rheault); his grandchildren: Jean-Philippe, Stéphanie, Nicolas and Camille; his brothers and sisters, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Jean-Raymond Soucy (Claire Bussière), Pauline Soucy, Madeleine Soucy (François Bilodeau), Dr François Soucy (Claudette Turcotte), Marthe Bilodeau (the late René-Paul Soucy), Yvan Kirouac (the late Pierrette Soucy) and a friend Marcelle Lacroix, Jacques Baril (Lise Ayotte), Gisèle Baril (Raoul Pinnard), Madeleine Baril (Dr Richard Jacob), René Baril (Marguerite Lemay), Camille Baril (Denise Lemay), Albert Baril (Muriel Croteau), Denise Baril, Raynald Baril (Sylvie Dubé), Louise Baril (André Normandin), Alain Baril (Johanne Lévesque); as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Mr. Soucy's widow, Jacqueline Baril, is a cousin of Pierre Kirouac from Trois-Rivières, KFA past President. Pierre's mother was born Simone Baril.

Our deepest
condolences to the
bereaved families



JACK KEROUAC ON THE STEPS OF ST. ROCH*

by J.A. Michel Bornais

Readily and with pleasure did the Kirouac Family Association answer the invitation of Mrs. Abigaëlle Friedman, American General Consul in Quebec City, to take part in a day of public reading of Jack Kerouac's works on the steps of St. Roch Church in Quebec City, on Friday, July 7. This event was organised to underline the links between parts of the American culture and Quebec French-speaking culture. Though he was born in the United States, Jack Kerouac is the indisputable example of this link according to Mrs. Friedman.

Starting at 10:30 a.m. and until 5 p.m. a steady number of readers availed themselves of the privilege to read a few pages from Jack Kerouac's numerous works. Jacques Kirouac, Céline Kirouac, Marie Kirouac and Michel Bornais besides reading excerpts also used this opportunity to shed light on some unknown or little known events in Jack's life. This was a way to illustrate the constant research and preservation work done by the KFA for nearly thirty years. The KFA was also called upon by CBC Vancouver to help with some last minute interviews. CBC Vancouver graciously expressed their gratitude by e-mail.

Unknown to the public and no less interesting, the sudden appearance of the KFA on the scene was a complete surprise for Mrs Friedman. Concerned that she might have offended the family, she immediately invited your secretary to the Consulate for a 10:15 a.m. appointment on Tuesday, July 5, immediately after the long July 4th weekend. It was a most pleasant meeting and Mrs



From left to right: Marie Kirouac and her granddaughter Corinne, Céline Kirouac, Jacques Kirouac, Abigaëlle Friedman, American Consul general to Quebec City, Michel Bornais and his wife, Yolande Bornais.

Friedman was delighted to hear how much Jack is one of the jewels in the Kirouac Family Treasure as well as Conrad Kirouac, Brother Marie-Victorin.

Having Jack Kirouac's reading on the front steps of St. Roch Church was an inspired idea. If Jack had had the opportunity to come to Quebec City, it is most likely where he would have felt most at home. The location and ambience matched perfectly his works' gen-

eral environment; including the fact that the legend of St. Roch, sick and excluded from society, saved from famine by his own dog who brought him stolen bits of bread, would surely have inspired him.

We are very grateful to you, Mrs Friedman, you made us very happy by honouring Jack's memory. Many thanks indeed.

*St-Roch = St. Rock in English.



Jacques Kirouac reading a text on the steps of St. Roch Church during the public reading event organized by the American General Consulate to Quebec City, on July 7, 2006.

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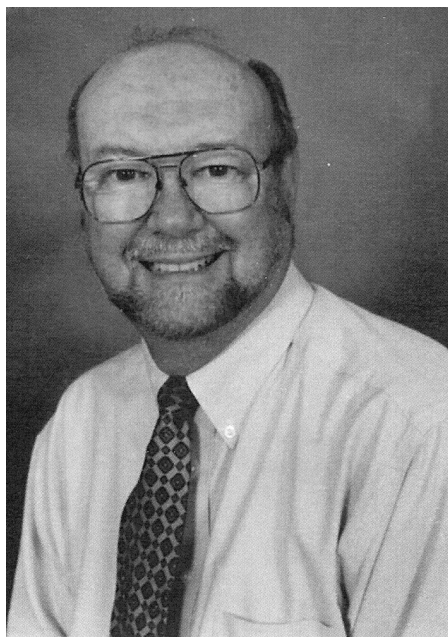
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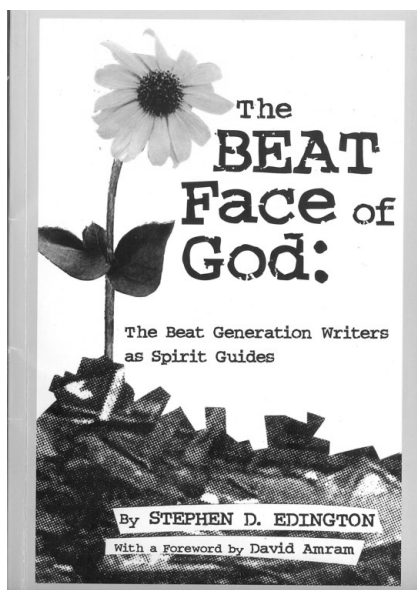
Chapter thirteen:

We need a little beat-ness, right this very moment



Reverend Stephen Edington is the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua, New Hampshire. He is a member of the *Lowell Celebrate Kerouac Committee* and an adjunct faculty member at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell.

Edington's previous book is *Kerouac's Nashua connection* (Transition Publishing, 1999). He's also a contributing writer for *Beat Scene Magazine*.



THE PASSING OF A GREAT BRETON

Youenn Gwernig, born in Scaër in 1925, died in Douarnenez on Tuesday, August 29, 2006. He wrote poetry for many years before becoming known as a singer. He immigrated to the United States and only went back to Brittany at the end of the sixties. He always carried out two main activities: musician and sculptor.

During his stay in the United States, he met the beatnik poet Jack Kerouac who died in 1969 and they became fast friends. Youenn became an American citizen and New York influenced some of his poems. He wrote some of his poems simultaneously in three languages: French, Breton and English. He also wrote a novel entitled *La grande*

tribu (The Large Tribe), published by Grasset. Most of his writings in the Breton language were published by *Al Liamm*. He was awarded the Xavier de Langlais Prize in 1996 for his whole poetical production.

Some of his songs were adapted by Graeme Allwright, Pascal Lamour.

DISCOGRAPHY

- *Distro ar Gelted*, LP, 1974
- *E-kreiz an noz*, LP, 1975
- *Private people*
- *Emañ ar bed va iliz* (CD, 1990)
- *Foeter Bro / Just a traveller / Compagnon de route* (CD, 1993)

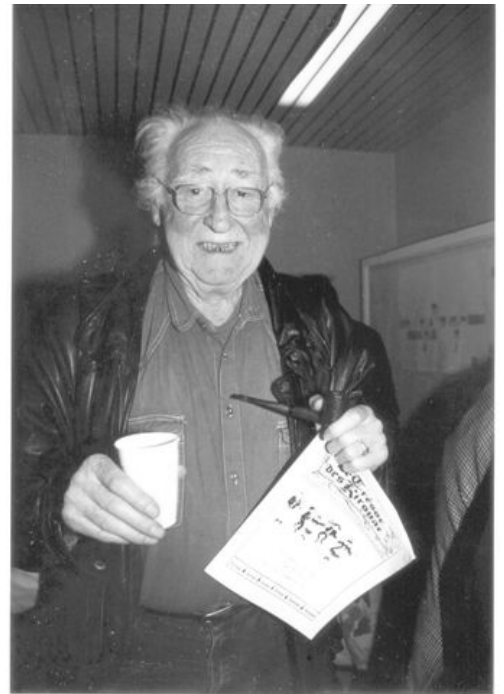
PUBLICATIONS

- *An toull en nor* (bilingual breton-french), 1972
- *An diri dir* (trilingual breton-

french-english), 1976

- *La grande tribu* (novel, french), Grasset, 1982
- *Un dornad plu* (bilingual breton-english), Al Liamm, 1997
- *Appelez-moi Ange* (novel, french), Blanc Silex, 2002

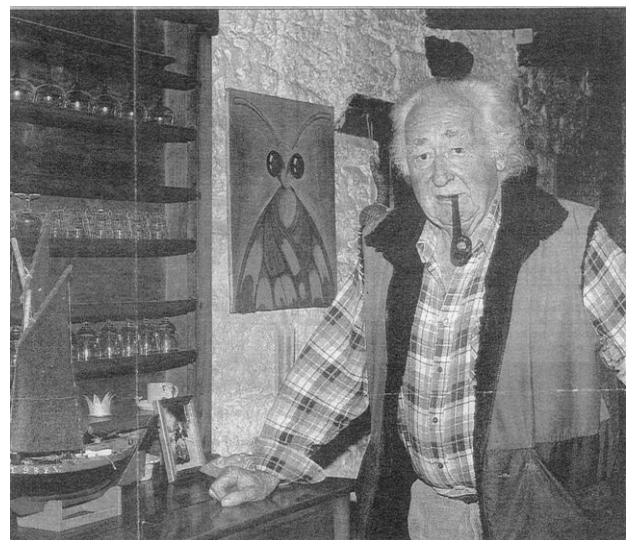
(From Wikipedia)



Youenn Gwernig photographed in Huelgoat in 2000 during the *Return to the Source* voyage organized after the discovery of the true identity of the Ancestor. (photo : Marie Kirouac)



Clément Kirouac with Youenn Gwernig's daughter, Annaig, during a holiday in Brittany in September 2004. (Photo : Éliane Tardif)



Youenn Gwernig in September 2004. (Photo: Clément Kirouac)

André Kirouac Always on the lookout

André Kirouac, from Sainte-Croix-de-Lotbinière and second president of our Association, never stops his indefatigable research work as he is determined to find the answer to the mystery of the Kirouacs of Douglastown in the Gaspé peninsula⁽¹⁾. How and where to hook to the Kirouac tree that branch of the family?

During his research, he found a document published in 2005 by the *Corporation des fêtes du 150^e anniversaire de Saint-Octave-de-Métis* (The Organizing Committee

for the 150th Anniversary of St. Octave near Métis). The book entitled: *Raconte-moi encore* (Tell me more), recounts the history of the parish from 1855 until 2005. In this study, André found one **Blanche Kirouac** married to Auguste D'Assylva⁽²⁾.

Here is a passage from the book:

*“Auguste D'Assylva, born in 1889, son of Johnny D'Assylva and Léontine Charest, worked as a foreman for the Canadian National. He met **Blanche Kirouac**, born in 1883 in Causapschal. She was the daughter of Alexandre Kirouac and Marie Caron from L'Islet. She was a*

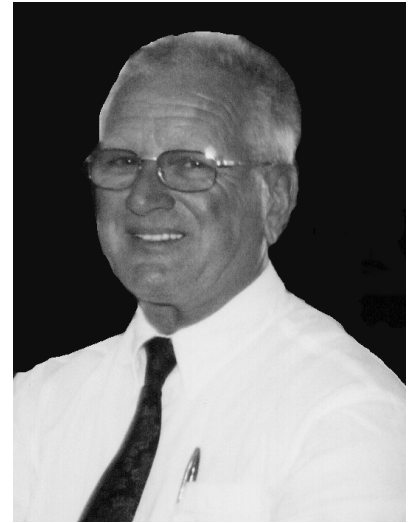


Photo : Marie Kirouac

André Kirouac (01894), KFA president 1992 - 1994 and 2000 - 2001.

telegraph operator at the train station and lived with her brother, Joseph Kirouac. She was born in L'Islet⁽³⁾. Auguste and Blanche married and moved to Petit-Métis Station where Auguste had been transferred. They had seven children and they lived in the old presbytery on the waterfront.

Blanche looked after the house. She knitted, sewed and was an excellent cook for her family and often on Sundays, after Mass, people would turn up at her house for a good dinner. She always welcomed all with open arm. In her free time she played the harmonium and accordion then everybody would sing.

Auguste D'Assylva died in 1952 at the age of 63 and Blanche died in 1967 at the age of 84.”

Photo: collection Jacques Kirouac



Auguste D'Assylva and Blanche Kirouac, Causapschal, Aug. 18, 1908

(1) See previous article published in the *Trésor des Kirouac*, number 74, pages 27 to 32, entitled “After the Ancestor, this is the second greatest enigma in our genealogy.”

(2) See the article published about the daughter of Auguste D'Assylva and Blanche Kirouac, Yolande, in the *Trésor des Kirouac*, number 72, pages 28-29. Blanche Kirouac was the sister of the grandfather of our founding president, therefore Jacques Kirouac's great-aunt.

(3) Obviously this is an error in the text as above it says that Blanche was born in Causapschal in 1883.



Short history of a street graduate

His name Pierre Kirouac mentioned as one of the persons on a photograph accompanying an article in the Quebec City daily *Le Soleil* caught the attention of *Le Trésor*'s editors and it also said that he was a youth mediator/counsellor at the *Maison Dauphine* (Dauphine House) in Quebec City.

The *Dauphine House* was officially opened in November 1992 by Father Michel Boisvert, a Jesuit, who was the mastermind behind the project while his congregation provided the house. The purpose was the social rehabilitation of street kids and, in September 1998, the *École de la Rue* e.g. the Street School was inaugurated to enable boys and girls, mostly teenagers, to complete their

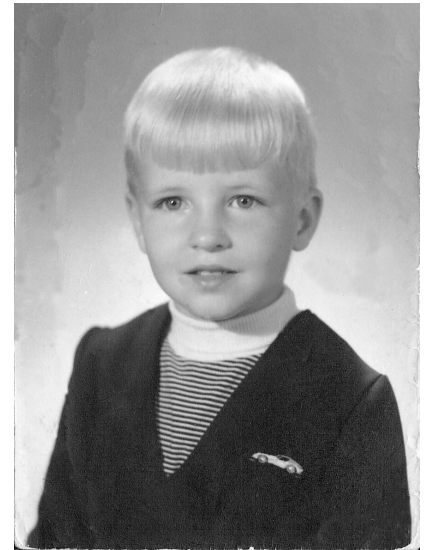
high school studies. They could start afresh wherever they had left off and finish these studies and in due course qualify to enter College.

To progress from living on the street to getting back to high school studies is made possible through the intervention of a psychosocial mediator/councillor, which is what Pierre Kirouac does but he prefers to describe himself as someone who "accompanies" the youth. We were in for a shock when we asked Pierre: "How and where did you train to do "accompany" these kids as you say? His answer was brief and straightforward: "I graduated on the street". That is it! That is Pierre all right; he is a 'Street Graduate! And he said it in all humility and simplicity.

Pierre was born on March 10, 1962 in the parish of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce in the Saint-Sauveur district of Quebec City, one of three children. His father, Donat (01175), was a cement worker (e.g. grouter-finisher-polisher of cement and terrazzo surfaces). It was hard working in Quebec's northern regions on hydro projects like James Bay. He was also in the merchant navy for ten years. Pierre's mother, Agnès Bélanger, is still alive.

Pierre did elementary and high school in the Saint-Sauveur district, except for one year studying at the *École apostolique*, at Lévis College in Lévis (across from Quebec City).

Until the age of five, he says that his childhood was happy because his mother completely sheltered him. But going to school proved very difficult, fitting into the group was painful. Anxiety and stress set in rapidly so much so that at the young age of eleven he tried drugs and quickly adopted them thinking they



Young Pierre Kirouac at about five years old (Collection Pierre Kirouac)

might neutralize his stress and help him better adapt to his environment. From eleven until he was twenty-six, that is during fifteen years, he was a drug addict and a delinquent. He was only eighteen when his father died and it made matters worse. However, this tough learning process finally ended in 1988, on October 27, a date he will always remember, because then he began life after 'detox' and he was determined to live.

He spoke to us very humbly and honestly about that most unhappy period of his life that could easily have led him to suicide. Those of us from the editorial board of *Le Trésor* who met him were not only astounded but speechless with admiration for Pierre who showed such serenity when speaking about his experiences.

And we were no less impressed when he talked about these young people, aged sixteen to twenty-five, whom he accompanies through their street/school life always using his own personal experience to help them. He considers his task as



Donat Kirouac (center, with beard) in the Merchant Marines. (Collection Pierre Kirouac)

helping these youth to quit their rambling way of life and to become autonomous. Everything needs to be built up in these young people therefore it is not a therapy they need or are given, as they must learn to make decisions by themselves and for themselves. Thus he remains in contact for weeks or many months over a period of a few years. He insists a great deal on the importance of respecting the youth's dignity because they are usually very intelligent but their values are usually totally foreign to those found in their respective milieu. In fact, very few of them live with their own family, whatever their family is like.

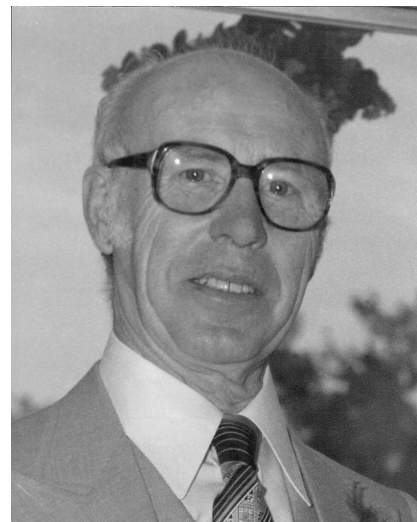
He prefers to say that he "accompanies" these young people and that he adapts his rhythm to theirs. There is no such thing as routine in his work at the *Dauphine House*; it is one day at a time and never two days are the same. At all times, it requires availability, flexibility, accessibility and a great deal of empathy. His own life experience is greatly useful to help these youth.

All this explains why the director of the *Dauphine House*, Father Michel Boisvert, recommended him after a thirty-minute phone conversation with Pierre without asking him to be assessed by a selection committee. Pierre considers his commitment to the *Dauphine House* as something that happened by chance but a chance planned "anonymously by God". Pierre is very articulate and straightforward and pulls no punches; he does not hide nor adds on to his troubled youth.

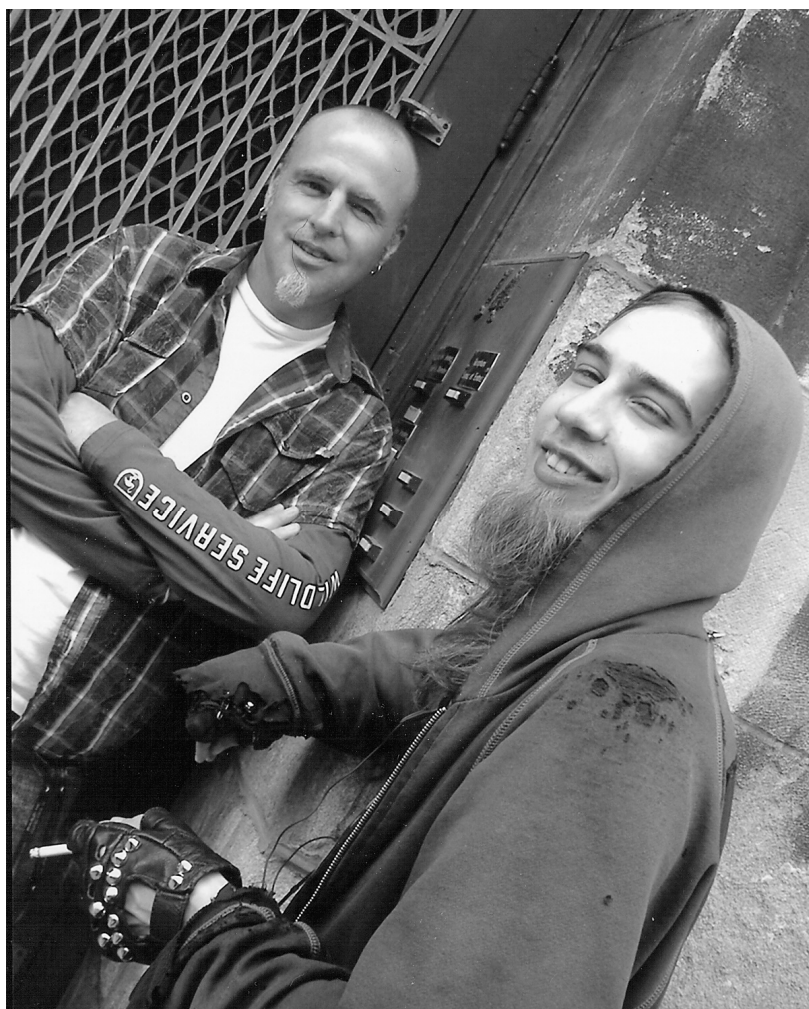
Before Pierre got his present job, he worked at the rehabilitation of young people in the Quebec City area for a few years: one year at the Youth Centre O.B.Q. (it stands for 'Ouvre-boîte du quartier' = 'area's can-opener', T.N.), six years at the Portage Centre and five years at Maison d'entraide Arc-en-Ciel



Pierre's mother, Agnès Bélanger
(Collection Pierre Kirouac)



Donat Kirouac (01175)
(Collection Pierre Kirouac)



Pierre Kirouac in front of the *Maison Dauphine* with Karl, one of the young men he 'accompanies' (Collection Pierre Kirouac)



Genealogy of Pierre Kirouac

I

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

Cap Saint-Ignace
22 October 1732

Louise Bernier
(1712-1802)

II

Louis Keroack
dit breton
1735-1779

Cap-Saint-Ignace
11 January 1757

Catherine Méthot
(1739-1813)

III

Pierre Keroack
(1777-1866)

Montmagny
Saint-Thomas
17 October 1797

Marie-Anne Joncas
(1775-1816)

IV

Joseph Marie Kirouac
(1806-1873)

Saint-François
Île d'Orléans
18 July 1837

Julie Labbé
(???-???)

V

Joseph Kirouac
(???-???)

Québec
Saint-Sauveur
22 November 1875

Julie Pichette
(???-???)

VI

Bruno Kirouac
(1885-1949)

Québec
Saint-Malo
25 November 1912

Clara Patry
(???-???)

VII

Donat Kirouac
(1922-1980)

Québec
Saint-Sauveur
28 July 1951

Agnès Bélanger
(1927-)

VIII

Pierre Kirouac
(1962-)

François Kirouac 24 September 2006

(Rainbow Help Centre, T.N.).

At the age of 26, when he finally came totally clean, he felt the need to live as close as possible with nature in order to exorcise his past. Loving outdoor life, he travelled many times to the Maritimes, Western Canada and the American West. He particularly loved the Rockies, the Great Northern expanses and really enjoyed dog sledding as a musher. To put it in his own words: he felt like a wolf searching for his wolf pack! Pierre's mind is colourful and picturesque.

In South Dakota (U.S.A.), he experienced something that obviously still influences him to this day. As he was looking for a camping site for the night, an American "trooper" indicated to him the way to an isolated Indian village as there was a camping site nearby. He put up his tent among a hundred others. He found himself among the *Crows*, a hunting tribe. He was

allowed to take part in their spiritual ceremonies and it had a great impact on his ongoing spiritual growth.

At the end of our meeting, he mentioned that he was to become a father for the first time in early 2007. No doubt, he will do everything in his power to prevent his child living through the kind of hell he knew. We wish that this child becomes a real anchor in his life and brings him the serenity he deserves after his past tumultuous years.

As for us, we left Pierre deeply impressed and we felt very proud that one of ours is so keen to honour his name. Pierre was very proud of his father and today, just like us, the father would be very proud of his son.

Thank you very much, Pierre, for sharing your life experience with the members of our Family Association and for demonstrating that, with courage and determination, it is possible to get back on track and help others do the same



Pierre Kirouac in the Canadian Armed Forces, 22nd Regiment (Collection Pierre Kirouac)

The Editorial Board



Photo : François Kirouac

Pierre Kirouac and Jacques Kirouac, member of *Le Trésor* Bulletin Committee
(From the collection of the Association)



THE READERS' PAGE

Please send us your genealogical questions; we will try to answer them and the result will be published in a following issue of *Le Trésor*.

The Editorial Team

Answer to Question 78, asked in *le Trésor* # 83, p. 38, where we were looking for the name of the spouse of Wendy KIROUAC, daughter of Henry Joseph KIROUAC and Laura Bisson.

In the: "Hampton Union" newspaper (New Hampshire, USA), as reported in: www.seacoastonline.com, 2002, Wendy KEELAN, died Nov. 13, 2002 in Dover, NH. She was born Jan. 10, 1929, in Killingly, Connecticut, daughter of Henry and Laura Bisson KEROACK. She resided in Homestead, FL, before moving to Newmarket in 1991. She was the widow of Kent KEELAN, who died in 1991. She was survived by three sons, five grandchildren and one brother, Donat KEROUACK, of Melbourne, FL.

Information submitted by Paul Keroack, Stratford, Connecticut, USA.



Huelgoat – Legendary Forest At the forest's edge at Huelgoat by Bernard de Parades

Last March, the Trésor Editorial team presented a first extract from Bernard de Parades' book. A fascinating volume passed on to us by Mrs. Maryvonne Le Coat from Lanmeur in Brittany. Here is a second extract from this book. Reference: *De Parades, Bernard (1959) Huelgoat, forêt légendaire, Édition d'Art Jos Le Doaré, Châteaulin (Finistère), p. 34.* (Huelgoat, Legendary Forest)

Giant Stones or Giants' Stones

According to an adage in Cornouaille (Cornwall in Brittany) to remove the stones in Berrien is one of four things impossible for God.

Kompeza Brasparz – flatten Brasparz

Diradenna Plouyé – remove the roots of Plouyé

Diveina Berrien – remove the stone of Berrien

Dic 'hasta Poullaouen – wisen up Poullaouen

For a very long time, Huelgoat was part of Berrien, therefore when we speak about Berrien we mean Huelgoat. Undeniably the Breton doubted God's power to be able to remove the mammoth stones that sprang from the woods, moors and prairies and are, not assembled but, heaped in such a chaotic way that the rivers do not gurggle down the valleys but instead play a very rocky tune along their stony way.

On the other hand, the old pagan traditions were still strong in the heart of the Breton who never doubted the strength of Gargantua, the Celtic hero much older than Rabelais. It is said that when Gargantua came to this part of Cornouaille he was served some buckwheat mush at a farmhouse. Furious with such a poor meal, he quickly went over to the Léon region and, to avenge himself, threw all the boulders he found on his road as far as the sea towards Huelgoat. This explains why the Léon has such fertile land whereas (Haute Cornouaille) Upper Cornwall is so poor and stony. Before departing, Gargantua even left his signature: a boulder still retains the concave shape of the portly giant.

According to the malicious elves or 'little guides' who live all summer long in the Chaos, it seems that there have been some petty quarrels between the two parishes. The villages of Berrien and Plouyé, used to be at loggers' head. And not only the parishioners but also their Curates, considering that the latter are Church people it is very bad. They ended up bombarding each other with boulders but, as they were not as strong as they thought, the boulders fell halfway, that is over the parish of Huelgoat forming the Mill Chaos. But, it is also said that the Curate of Plouyé was the better thrower of the two thus the river's edge in Berrien is more deeply scattered with blocks than Plouyé river's edge.

In Plouyé, one can find the famous Roche Tremblante (Trembling Rock), a testing rock also consultation rock and, through a gentle pressure of one's back at a very precise spot, like on some magic switch, the boulder slowly rocks. The old man who makes the mossy green stone roll officiates with the seriousness of a pardon maker.

All these boulders have been the cradle of giant legends and giants' legends. One giant was Hok Braz, who used to play there as a child. At the age of three, he was already over six feet tall but was still not baptised, so his father asked his aunt in Huelgoat to be his godmother. Hok Braz was walking like a man so the aunt did not have to hold him above the baptismal font. Hok Braz was very nice through the ceremony but, when the aunt put a pinch of salt in his mouth, he sneezed so hard that the verger was thrown against one of the church pillars and a bump on his head he got. Hok Braz laughed so heartily that all the stained glass windows shattered.

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Alexandre DuLac

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

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