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Number 88

Le Trésor des Kirouac

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



(Collection Marie-France Therrien)

At the end of the filming of *La Quête* on Marie-Victorin - The Quest for TFO - Ontario French speaking Television - l. to r.: Charles-Éric Vézina and Michaël Leblanc proudly sitting in front of Brother Marie-Victorin's statue in Montreal Botanical Garden.
(Photo taken by J. A. M. Bornais)

Kérouac ❖ Kéroack ❖ Kirouac ❖ Kprouac ❖ Kérouack ❖ Kirouack

Le Trésor des Kirouac

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From the President

In the present bulletin, you will be able to read about the conclusion of a project launched soon after the 2006 gathering in Kamouraska. It coincides perfectly with the KFA objectives as established in 1986 when the Association was incorporated. This venture brings to the fore the scientific work of Brother Marie-Victorin but it is also an opportunity to proclaim publicly that the great scientist's name was Kirouac.

The project is one out of the 70 episodes of a television series created for Ontario French Television where children, ten-to-fourteen-years old, discover the life of one of their ancestors or relatives. In the case of the Kirouacs, it is to help two descendants of Urbain-François Le Bihan, Sieur de K/voac, realize that the first French Canadian scientist bore the same family name as one of their great-grandmothers.

Such a project is perfectly attuned to our association's mission. I take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to Miss Lucie Jasmin, responsible for the project on behalf of the KFA Board, to Marie Lussier Timperley and Michel Bornais, our secretary, for the generous amount of time given and their professionalism in dealing with the various parts of the upcoming and motivating television programme to be shown next autumn on TFO TV Network.

There are other projects on the KFA table, for example: a new edition of our genealogy; draw on archival documents on the life of the ancestor's sons and their respective families; put on DVDs the many films and videos taken since our

Association's foundation, nearly thirty years ago; scan, identify, label and file hundreds, even thousands, of old, very old and not so old photos from the Kirouac families - these could also be put on DVDs and made available to KFA members. Besides these, other often unexpected projects also spring up.

Of course any and all projects require funding. Our funds essentially come from the annual membership fee of \$22 that you pay to become a KFA member. A small percentage of our budget also comes from the sale of promotional objects plus the interest generated by the *Jacques Kirouac Fund*. However, after covering our administrative costs and the publishing expenses of *Le Trésor*, at best, year in year out, there is a very small surplus. Consequently, we depend entirely on recruitment efforts to find new members in order to carry out these various ventures.

As you most likely know, recruitment is done on a one-by-one basis and, every year, some leave the KFA ranks. Thus the net result is: the KFA membership is always around 160 annually. This year the KFA has 159 registered members. Twenty-six people who were members in 2006 did not renew their subscription this year for various personal reasons. The number of non-renewal is also fairly constant every year. Sometimes, some people skip a year or two, and then come back. But even if all those who do not renew are eventually replaced by new members the following year, unfortunately the membership remains under the viability level



François Kirouac

that would enable us to carry out these interesting, beneficial, and most valuable projects.

Past years' experience taught us that recruiting is most effective through word of mouth within each family. So this is why each one of you has an important part to play to keep our Association alive, it is especially and more important to ensure that the projects to preserve and develop our historical heritage are carried out. As all the work is accomplished on a 100% volunteer basis, you will understand why we feel that you are the best KFA volunteer-recruiting agent.

Apart from what you say to your relatives to encourage them to support the KFA's efforts by becoming members, one obvious way to achieve this goal is to get people to read the *Trésor*. Lending your own copy is a good idea but why not offer a gift subscription to the *Trésor*? The recipient may well turn out to be a grateful and avid reader the more he becomes interested in and curious about the history, anecdotes and achievements, of present and past descendants of Urbain-François Le Bihan, Sieur de K/voac and his wife, Louise Bernier.



BRIEFLY SPEAKING

PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED IN QUEBEC CITY'S MUSEUM OF CIVILISATION

On Wednesday, 20 June 2007, *Le Soleil*, Quebec City daily, published an article by Régis Tremblay inviting people to visit, Quebec City's Museum of Civilisation, between now and November 11, to see the exhibition entitled *Tous ces livres sont à toi!* (*All these books are yours!*) One of the books prominently displayed at this exhibition is *La Flore laurentienne* - The Laurentian Flora, Brother Marie-Victorin's major work.

This exhibition was first created for the opening of the **Grande Bibliothèque** (Quebec National Library) in Montreal in 2005. It was put together by the Quebec National Archives and Library and adapted for the Museum of Civilisation. According to the Régis Tremblay, the journalist, all those who saw the exhibition in Montreal would be fascinated to see how the exhibition has been staged here in Quebec City.

The author Michel Marc Bouchard and the Museum of Civilisation have created a dream library! Everywhere you turn and look, there is a treasure ... a small Amerindian catechism from 1844 ... *The Birds of America* drawn by Audubon (1827-1838) ... *Le Petit Prince* by Saint-Exupéry (1943)... *Menaud, maître-draveur* by Félix-Antoine Savard (1937) ... *La Flore laurentienne* by Brother Marie-Victorin

(1935) ... (Régis Tremblay – *Le Soleil*)

LA QUÊTE (TFO) THE QUEST FOR BROTHER MARIE- VICTORIN a.k.a. CONRAD KIROUAC

The four-day filming of the 43rd episode of *La Quête* (*The Quest*) about the works and genealogy of Brother Marie-Victorin was an

extraordinary experience. Even the weather cooperated perfectly in spite of the weatherman's dire



J.A. Michel Bornais

Photo: François Kirouac



Geologists in training with Jean-Pierre Lefebvre (Photo: from Michel Bornais' video taken during the filming)



Lise Gobeille's advice on growing orchids (Photo: from Michel Bornais' video taken during the filming)

prediction of violent storms for the Montreal area, particularly on Tuesday, June 19. Thunder was heard and clouds hovered over our heads but the Montreal Botanical Garden remained dry.

Instinct Films' filming crew masterfully directed by Jean-Louis Côté showed angelic patience and our two young K/ descendants enjoyed learning what goes on behind the scene and better understanding the phrase: "It is all arranged behind the scene". The well-planned imaginative scenario brought about many discoveries and some moments will undoubtedly go down in History... with a capital H.

The documentary will surely achieve its two aims: first, get people, young and old, to discover and appreciate the importance of the scientific and educational heritage left by Brother Marie-Victorin, by following the path of a great scientist and additionally, remind all that his name was Conrad Kirouac; this was finally revealed to Michael Leblanc and Charles-Éric Vézina in front of the Marie-Victorin monument at the new entrance of the Montreal Botanical Garden, by Mrs. Danielle Girouard whose grandmother, Blanche Kirouac, was Conrad's sister.

This episode will be shown only in French, in the autumn of 2007 and we hope all our readers will be able to see it on TFO (French-speaking Ontario Television). Our only regret is that this series has yet to interest Quebec French speaking television networks; so, only subscribers to TV cable and satellite services will be able to see the programme. Without giving away the scenario, here are some photos taken during the filming.



Canoeing under the watchful eye of cameraman, Laurent Quesnel, collecting water plants (Photo: from Michel Bornais' video taken during the filming)



Listen to the Director, Jean-Louis Côté! (Photo: from Michel Bornais' video taken during the filming)



Brother Marie-Victorin, a smile please for Laurent Quesnel's lens! (Photo: from Michel Bornais' video taken during the filming)



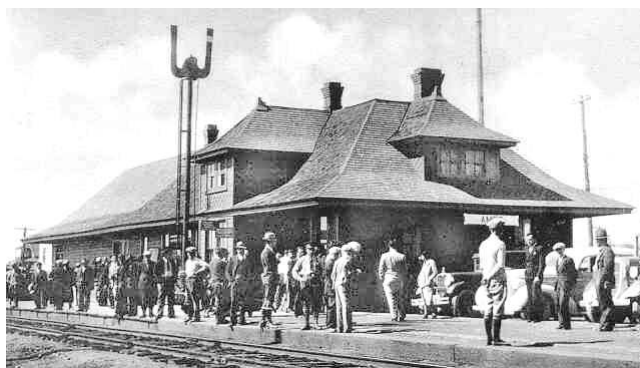
AMOS 2007

KIROUAC FAMILY GATHERING



This year's Organizing Committee: from left to right: front row: Nicole Kirouac, Rita Paradis, Gisèle Thibodeau, François Dumulon, Janine Kirouac Dumas. Second row: Jacques Thibodeau, Yvon Kirouac, Raymonde Kirouac, Denis Thibodeau. Gisèle Kirouac

Abitibi, here we are!



The old railway station in Amos, built in 1913; enlarged in 1920, and demolished in 1969. (Collection: Amos Historical Society. Source : www.ville.amos.qc.ca/images/album_jadis_14.jpg)

Kirouac Family Gathering
*La Ferme (Amos) Abitibi

Programme

Friday, August 3, 2007

- 4-8 p.m. Registration in Katari Hall at *La Ferme* - Amos
- 5:30 p.m. Corn-on-the-cob picnic followed by a musical evening under the big top, weather permitting, or in the dining hall

Saturday, August 4, 2007

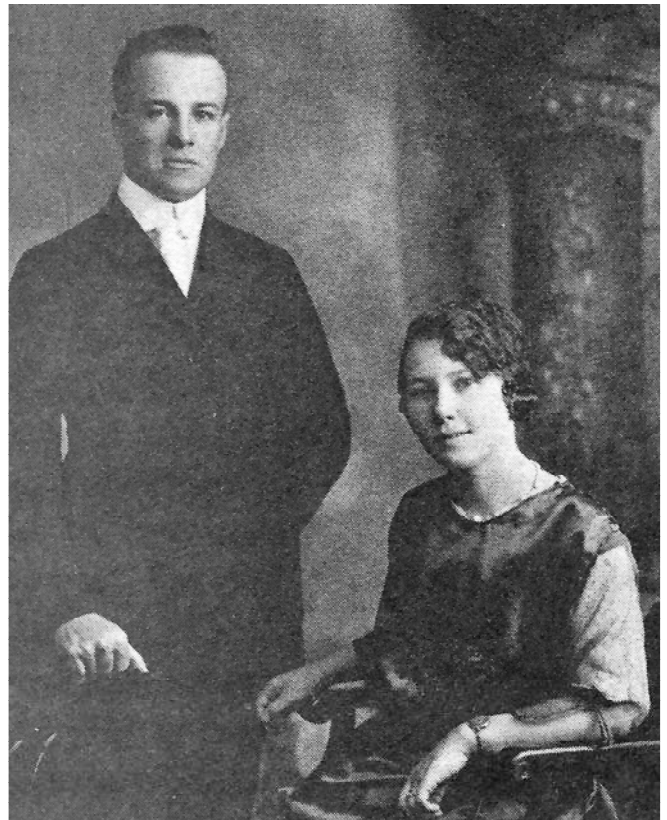
- 8-9 a.m. Breakfast in the cafeteria - main building of *The Farm*
- 8:30 a.m. Registration
- 9:30 a.m. Cultural Tour
- Spirit Lake - La Ferme (former WWI German prisoners of war camp)
 - Visit of Amos' Cathedral Sainte-Thérèse d'Avila
 - Guided tour of the Town of Amos
 - Guided tour of Pikogan (Algonquin Reserve)
 - Amos Cemetery visit where the Kirouac ancestors are buried
- 12:30 p.m. Open lunch hour in Amos
- 1:30 p.m. Return to *The Farm* - A good time for all to mingle
- 2:00 p.m. Olympics and historical rally
- 5:30 p.m. Cocktail offered by the Town of Amos
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner - Abitibi specialties
- 8:00 p.m. Kirouac talent show and K/ Olympic Medals Award

Sunday, August 5, 2007

- 8-9 a.m. Breakfast in the cafeteria of *The Farm*
- 9:00 a.m. Annual General Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Mass at the Chapel at *The Farm*
- 12 noon THANK YOU and AUREVOIR

*English Website with history of *La Ferme - The Farm* - http://www.quebecheritageweb.com/uploads/laurent_trails.pdf/Abitibi.pdf

Pioneer Kirouac Couples in Abitibi



Louis Kirouac and Céline Poirier

Photo : L'Album



Andréas Kirouac and Azilda Caron

Photo : L'Album



Genealogy of Louis Kirouac

An Abitibi Pioneer

I

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

Cap Saint-Ignace
22 October 1732

Louise Bernier
(1712-1802)

II

Simon Alexandre Keroack
(1732-1812)

L'Islet
15 June 1758

Élisabeth Chalifour
(1739-1814)

III

Simon Alexandre Keroack
(1760-1823)

Cap-Saint-Ignace
18 November 1782

Marie-Ursule Guimont
(1765-1820)

IV

Simon Alexandre Keroack
(1783-1871)

L'Islet
4 November 1806

Constance Cloutier
(1789-1843)

V

Firmin Kirouack
(1807-1873)

L'Islet
21 October 1828

Marie-Marthe Lebourdais
(????-????)

VI

Eucher Kirouac
(????-????)

L'Islet
21 October 1856

Virginie St-Pierre
(????-????)

VII

Alfred Kirouac
(1863-????)

Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard
20 July 1886

Paméla Coulombe
(1864-????)

VIII

Louis Kirouac
(1900– 1990)

Taschereau
2 August 1922

Céline Poirier
(1900– 1979)

François Kirouac 18 June 2007

Genealogy of Andréas Kirouac

An Abitibi Pioneer

I

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

Cap Saint-Ignace
22 October 1732

Louise Bernier
(1712-1802)

II

Simon Alexandre Keroack
(1732-1812)

L'Islet
15 June 1758

Élisabeth Chalifour
(1739-1814)

III

Simon Alexandre Keroack
(1760-1823)

Cap-Saint-Ignace
18 November 1782

Marie-Ursule Guimont
(1765-1820)

IV

Joseph Kirouac
(1787-1864)

L'Islet
7 February 1809

Marguerite Bourgault
(1790-1840)

V

Damase Kirouac
(1816-1870)

L'Islet
10 February 1846

Rosalie Bélanger
(???-???)

VI

Joseph Kirouac
(1846-1932)

L'Islet
9 January 1872

Alphonsine Berger
(1846-1925)

VII

Andréas Kirouac
(1876-1958)

Saint-Eugène-de-L'Islet
8 January 1901

Azilda Caron
(1879-1971)

François Kirouac 12 June 2007



In Memoriam

Céline Kirouac (1952-2007)

Wednesday, September 9, 1952, as I am preparing the following day classes in my small country school, my brother Gérard (01136) came to tell me that, a few hours earlier, his wife, Thérèse (Desrochers), had given birth to a beautiful little girl. The long awaited and desired baby loved and tenderly cared for became a loving woman who cultivated affectionate relationships with the family members, many friends and even with the patients she cared for through her lifetime.

During four years, she lived surrounded by her parents, her grandparents and her aunt Hélène. Of course one gets very attached to such a nice loving little girl. Could it possibly be otherwise?

Life did not give her blood siblings but her parents offered her a beautiful gift by adopting Michel and Monique who made her very happy indeed. With their respective spouse they were very close to her particularly at the end of her road when her health deteriorated and left her very dependant on others.

At school, Céline achieved very good grades. As she was one of my pupils in high school, I can vouch that she was an exemplary student. Her homework was always so well done. I never reprimanded her.

After high school she went to CÉGEP (college of general education and training) that opened the doors to her professional training as an auxiliary nurse.

With her diploma in hand, she found a job at the Hospital in Thetford Mines. But soon after starting to work she was diagnosed with diabetes. Was it heredity or stress? Nevertheless she managed to work nights at the hospital for the next fifteen years, caring for elderly, sick, and bed-ridden people.

After her mother's passing in 1987, she moved to Warwick to live with her father. She continued working with elderly people, caring for the old nuns at the convent. When my mother, who was living with me at the time, became much weaker in 1988, she came to help me by surrounding my mother with tender loving care until her very last moment.

In 1991, her father, Gérard, passed away. Céline felt very much an orphan. Her health deteriorated so much then that the doctor declared her unfit to work.

Perhaps she was not fit to hold a job but she certainly was felt able to volunteer her time and energy; and she gave herself fully: volunteer at the parish presbytery, at the Warwick Centre d'Entraide, board member for the Handicap Action Autonomie Bois-Francs, secretary for the Bois-Francs Diabetes Association, meeting secretary for the Kirouac Family Association. She was a member of the AFÉAS, working on their welcoming committee (AFÉAS is a very active Quebec women's group for education and social action-T.N.). The short welcome notes she wrote



Collection Hélène Kirouac

Céline Kirouac, Board Member of our Association from 1985 to 2002.

were so appreciated and in such demand that it was suggested they should be collected and printed into a booklet. But did she have the time to do it?

After listening to the many tributes and praises at her funeral on May 18, I can appreciate how, in spite of her delicate health, through her humble and often difficult life she reached out to others because of that unlimited capacity to love and spread goodness around her which rippled far and wide.

Warwick, 4 June 2007.
Hélène Kirouac (01154)

Translated by Marie L. T. for *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, no. 88, summer 2007



I love you because you are you!

Céline Kirouac, 8 years old

I would like to share a wonderful souvenir, a beautiful message of love from Céline.

Many years ago when Céline was eight, we were alone at home together one day. I was busy preparing the meal. I can still see her kneeling in front of a rocking chair. She was gently swaying from left to right while her eyes were following my every move. Intrigued, I asked her: "Why do you look at me like that?" She answered: "I look at you because I love you." Wanting to find out more, I asked her: "Why do you love me?" I expected the usual answer like: "... because you give me presents, because you play with me." But no. This is not what she answered. She said: "I love you because you are you."

What a beautiful testimony of love - freely given!

"I love you because you are you." These simple words straight from a child's heart followed me through life.

To love someone for what the person is: to look at someone with loving eyes, love one with ones weaknesses as well as with their riches, to love a person the way Jesus loves us.

Céline loved selflessly, freely, without expecting any reward: within her family, in her profession, she was an auxiliary nurse, in her numerous commitments as a volunteer where she served

generously and freely in spite of her frail health.

Thank you, Céline, for giving of yourself lovingly and freely to everyone around you.

On this beautiful May Sunday, when you crossed the bridge taking you to the other shore to meet up with all those you loved and who are already there, I like to imagine that the Lord met you personally at the door to say: "Do come in, my dear Céline. Come into my abode, where there is no more suffering, no more pain, no more misery. I open the doors large and wide for you; I want you with me because I love you and I love you because you are who you are."

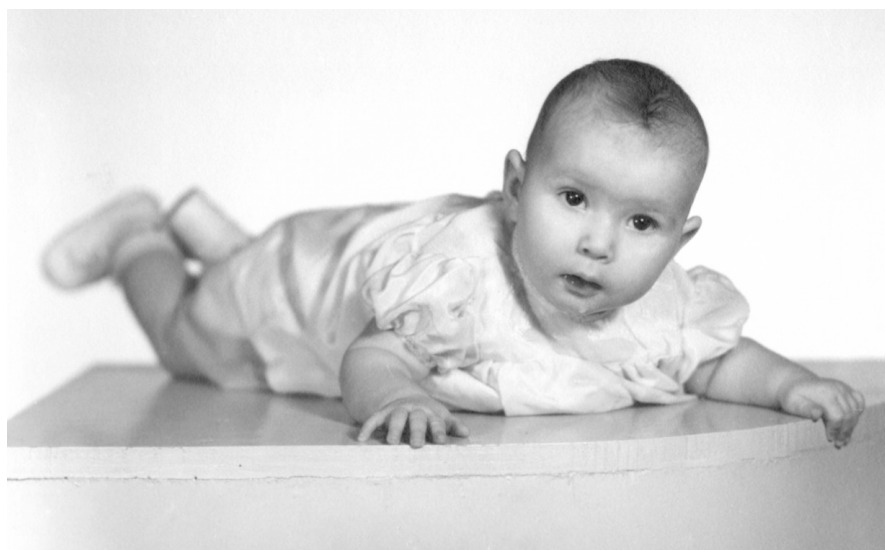
Au revoir, Céline. Be happy in God's dwelling. He is your God and our God. Rest in peace!



1958—5 ½ year-old Céline Kirouac with her eight-month old brother, Michel. (Collection Hélène Kirouac)

We love you because you are you!

Warwick, 18 May 2007
Hélène Kirouac



Céline Kirouac—six months old (Collection Hélène Kirouac)



LOOKING FORWARD TO HER HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY, SISTER CÉCILE KIROUAC PASSED AWAY

My cousin Cécile often told me: “The Lord will decide when it is time for me to go.” Although she looked forward so much to celebrating her hundredth birthday in Sillery in June, as she was already in heaven to rejoice then, as she passed away on 25 May 2007, at the age of 99 years and eleven months, after 74 years of religious life. Always walking at a good pace, unfortunately she lost her footing on Friday, April 6, and broke her hip. After some major surgery, she was back in the convent infirmary but her health kept deteriorating. She quietly slipped away and died on 25 May 2007, a month short of her hundredth birthday on June 21. Death did not frighten her; she had a solid faith and was at peace about leaving this world.

The exceptional life story of this first cousin of mine was the subject of a major article in our family bulletin, *Le Trésor*, September 1999, number 57, pages 4 to 19. It happened thanks to the persistent request made by Marie Kirouac. Cécile finally had to relent and accept to talk about herself. I had the pleasure to assist in this pleasant task and it gave me the opportunity to better know and appreciate all the richness of her personality. Today, I will refer to only a few events in her life as I reminisce about her.

1907 to 1933

Her mother was a piano teacher, so Cécile grew up surrounded by music and her great musical talent always played an important part in her life and work. After some advanced musical studies at the *Julliard School of Music* in New York,

she enjoyed a career as a concert pianist playing all over Quebec. Recently a friend sent me an article published in a former Quebec City morning daily, *L'ÉVÉNEMENT*, dated November 27, 1931; it referred to a concert given in Quebec City by Mr. Roméo Jobin, tenor from the Paris Opera (he later changed his name to Raoul at the request of a French man) he was accompanied by Mr. Henri Vallières and Miss Cécile Kirouac, pianist. About the latter, it reads: “... Once more she demonstrated precision and clarity in her execution, hitting the notes with confidence; creating beautiful sound and showing great musical temperament. Chopin’s *Nocturne* flowed like a poem. In Bortkeiwicz’s *Tempest*, Miss Kirouac successfully drew out of the piano all possible stormy effects. In short, it was a great triumph for the young pianist who had

to play a number of encores including Frank LaForge’s *Romance*. This concert will surely stand out as one of the best of the season. — M.B.”

1933

After becoming a nun, called Mother Saint-Robert-Marie, she taught organ, piano and singing as well as being for various periods, choir director, organist and director of musical teaching at the Collège Jésus-Marie in Sillery, Quebec. Music was her gift and her whole life revolved around music. A born teacher, it was with great happiness that she would talk about all the pupils and students whom she taught music and who learned to love music. When she evoked the names of talented young women who follow or followed a musical career since, one could sense how very proud of them she was.



Photo: Marie Kirouac

Sister Cécile Kirouac at the launching of the KFA crest at *Manoir Joly de Lotbinière* on 9 June 2001. When she saw the piano, Sister Cécile immediately wanted to try it; so she happily played and delighted all present, including her cousin, Simone Kirouac, standing behind her.

She retired to the infirmary a few years ago and was perfectly at peace, praying and meditating, and enjoying thinking about her long happy life. I could feel that she was always happy when we reminisced about the New Year's celebration at our Kirouac grandparents' house on Des Prairies Street in Saint-Roch (Quebec district), or when she remembered some memorable events, for example her visit to the Montreal Botanical Garden in company of Mother Marie-des-Anges when their photo was taken in front of Brother Marie-Victorin's monument. Looking at that photo always brought back so many wonderful memories.

Her links with the Kirouac Family Association remained very strong, our bulletin *Le Trésor* was like a symbol, always prominently displayed in her room ... even when she could hardly read anymore. All those present at our annual Kirouac gatherings remember her presence during these happy get-togethers and she always looked forward to the next one coming up year after year. During some of these festive occasions, she loved to play the organ for the Kirouacs. She was so proud of her Kirouac family name. In 2003, at the age of 96, she attended the 25th anniversary of our Association's foundation, in Longueuil where she was particularly interested to meet Brother Gilles Beaudet, the guest speaker and a long-time friend. Sensitive to the consideration shown to her by the Kirouacs, moved by the flowers and good wishes sent to her on her anniversaries, Cousin Cécile felt really loved by this precious large family and very grateful for so much affection. Today, in her name, I have the chance to express how grateful she was to all the Kirouacs. She would have liked very much to be able to show her deep gratitude to everyone personally. Inspired by her, I want to bear witness to the eternal affection and happiness she felt to take part in our annual gatherings.

Céline Kirouac from Québec City
June 2007

Sister Cécile Kirouac's Funeral

Ricordanza (souvenir) by Réjane Veilleux, R.J.M., 21 May 2007
My "*Ricordanza*" - My memories of Dear Sister Cécile:

In 1989, or about that time, I thought of asking the then Provincial Mother for a special authorization or perhaps of suggesting that . . . Sister Cécile be asked to compose a Mass in homage to our Blessed Dina* to be sung for the first time at her Beatification. Such a request did seem rather unreasonable given that our dear Sister Cécile was already 82 years old then. But she was such an unparalleled artist! The one and only music pupil of Dina*, Mother Ste-Cécile-de-Rome.

Shortly afterwards, Sister Cécile, already having an idea of what the Mass would be, she explained to me that she would use the themes from *Ricordanza*, as suggested in one of Dina Bélanger's piano composition. Then she played the introduction explaining that the Mass had all come together, quite rapidly:

**" Glory on earth as in heaven to the Holy Trinity.
Praise, for ever praise Jesus and Mary. "**

Since 1993, Sister Cécile has been an exceptional artistic contributor to the *Dina Bélanger Centre*. Pilgrims coming to pray at our Blessed Dina's tomb are greeted by our dear Sister Cécile whom everyone considered a precious treasure.

They were enraptured by *Rêverie sur le Saguenay* (Dreaming along the Saguenay River) when Sister Cécile played on the organ her harmonization of Dina Bélanger's piano composition. This would automatically be followed by photos taken with the organist. Some pilgrims came back year after year and their first question invariably was: "Is the organist still here? You know? The elderly one?" ... And I would answer that there was one and only organist and yes, she was unique.

The Jesus-Marie Family, our group of associates, had the privilege and benefit of Sister Cécile Kirouac's presence at the monthly meetings; of course that meant a musical offering during the prayer sessions in the chapel or during various celebrations. Last February 3, 2007, during a visit of the members of the Jesus-Marie Family at the infirmary, our accordionist played some merry tunes well-known to our sick nuns. Sister Cécile, knowing our musician, wanted to hold the instrument. We had to give in and standing, beaming, she tried to play a few notes. Her fingers ran along the notes unable to bring any sound out of the instrument ... But her deafness did the trick and she was very happy.

*Blessed Dina Bélanger, Canadian nun, musician and mystic, was born in Quebec City on April 30, 1897 in the Parish of [Saint-Roch](#). So brilliant that she was sent to New York City to study music. She entered the Congregation of Jesus-Marie in Sillery in 1921 and took the name of Sister Marie Sainte-Cécile de Rome. She died at the age of 33, on September 4, 1929, leaving behind musical compositions, poems, correspondence and a spiritual autobiography. On March 23, 1993, she was proclaimed blessed by Pope John-Paul II. Camille Roy wrote her biography in 1934. — MLT



At the Funeral Parlour
Prayer for the soul of Sister Cécile
Kirouac
29 May 2007

On the eve of your hundredth birthday you left us to join He who guided your life, your prayers and your mission. Psalm 104, verses 33-34, embrace very well the essence of your whole life:

**"I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
 May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD."
 (Psalm 104, 33-34)**

A woman of praise, you have been. Your spontaneous heart combined to your musical talent made you what you were, a woman very happy to live, pray and sing God's praise.

A woman of harmony, at the piano and organ, as you improvised for the benefit of your pupils and the Sisters as well as the charismatic prayer groups!

A woman of projects, with resolve, you composed the *Ricordanza* Mass for the beatification of Blessed Dina Bélanger and the canonization of Saint Claudine Thévenet (founder of the Congregation of Jésus-Marie of Sillery, Quebec). You never missed an occasion to compose a musical offering, signed *Mélody*, your pen-name, when you knew it could bring pleasure to one and all.

Sister Cécile, now that you have met the great Musician, may you fully enjoy the perfectly harmonious encounter! With praise to the Lord, we leave you in the hands of our Father.

OUR FATHER...

May our Lady of the Sacred-Heart, the Virgin very dear to Sister Cécile, be there to meet her with Love!

HAIL MARY...

May her soul and the soul of all the departed rest in peace through God's mercy. Amen!

Glory be to Jesus and Mary for ever and ever!

Jacqueline Poulin, R.J.M., Provincial Superior, Congregation of Jesus Marie



Collection : Association des familles Kirouac

August 3, 1986 — Opening of an exhibition on Chevalier François Kirouac, Sister Cécile's great-grandfather; from left to right: Jacques Kirouac, Sister Cécile Kirouac, Marie Kirouac and Yvon Vézina, representing the Mayor of Quebec City, Mr. Jean Pelletier.

Prayer before Compline
Sister Cécile Kirouac + 25 May 2007 +

Here we are gathered around Sister Cécile and from my heart rises a prayer - a melody of praise. When studying her numerous compositions, it is evident that she used all her artistic talent to praise the Lord.

Born into a profoundly Christian and musical family, at a very early age Sister Cécile developed her faith bathed in love and music because, at the tender age of three, she started playing the piano and her father bought her a piano when she was only four years old. She had the soul of an artist therefore fully benefited from her musical studies and was able to share her musical gifts around her and later with the sisters of the Congregation of Jesus and Mary, the students, the parishes, the various prayer groups, in particular the Charismatic groups where her great devotion to the Holy Spirit gained in strength because, as she wrote herself, "the Holy Spirit is the perfect gift of the artists."

Sister Cécile was a great woman gifted with a highly developed social sense that made her an excellent public relations woman. In communities and the artistic world, she was loved and appreciated.

Her fiery heart invited her to write numerous melodies, masses, poems, songs about our Founder Saint Claudine Thévenet and the Blessed Dina Bélanger whom she loved dearly, because she had been her professor during her student years at the boarding school (College Jésus-Marie, in Sillery). She also wrote so many more pieces according to various special devotions like the Holy Virgin, the Eucharistic Heart, etc. Everything was an inspiration to her loving heart.

Sister Cécile, we thank the Lord for the gift of your life to our Congregation. You gave yourself with courage and generosity for the happiness of one and all. Our prayer goes up to He who granted you those amazingly nimble hands on the organ and the piano in order to play for His highest praise.

Gaétane Dumas, R.J.M., Sillery, 28 May 2007

In St. Dominique Parish Church A VERY SUCCESSFUL CONCERT

L'Évènement, November 27, 1931

Yesterday evening, in the Parish Hall of Saint-Dominique Church, Mr. Roméo Jobin ⁽¹⁾, tenor at the Paris Opera, accompanied by Mr. Henri Vallières ⁽²⁾ and Miss Cécile Kirouac, pianist, gave a much appreciated concert. A great success for local artists.

THE PROGRAMME

Three Quebec artists, Mr. Roméo Jobin, tenor at the Paris Opera, Miss Cécile Kirouac and Mr. Henri Vallières, pianist, were heard yesterday evening in the Parish Hall of Saint-Dominique Church, on Grande-Allée (Quebec City). The distinguished audience who attended the concert greatly applauded the artists and asked for many encores at the end of the concert.

This has been Mr. Jobin's greatest success since he returned to Quebec



Roméo (Raoul) Jobin

Source : <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/obj/m2/f1/nlc009550-v6.jpg>

(which, unfortunately, is not necessarily permanent, so we are told). The Quebec tenor gave us a full measure of his talent and of his vocal capacity which is obviously powerful as all listeners could hear. Mr. Jobin is a light tenor with a very supple and extensive range; these are two of his many qualities. His high notes, projected with strength, have great brilliance. His half-tone are remarkably velvety. Altogether, he masters his art in a commendable way.

Mr. Jobin can be praised for demonstrating great technique and style in some difficult and interesting works. He showed experience and taste in the phrasing as well as in the nuances in the two pieces by Rachmaninov, for example, and in the work by Chausson. It was a great success for Mr. Jobin. His interpretation of the air of *Grisélidis* by Massenet was remarkably delicate and colourful. In the great pieces like *Sigurd* by Reyer, and the *Troyens in Cartagena* by Berlioz, the tenor gave everything his powerful tenor voice could. He sang with pathos as well which showed his particular gift for opera.

Mr. Jobin was called back after each group. He added to his programme, *Dream* By Grieg, the nice *Sérénade* by our compatriot Mr. Robert Talbot, professor at Laval University's Music School, and *Départ du Matelot* by Philippe Gaubert.

Mr. Henri Vallières, organist at Notre-Dame-du-Chemin Church, fulfilled the demanding task of accompanying the singers at the pi-



Miss Cécile Kirouac, before entering the convent of the Congregation of Jésus-Marie of Sillery

ano; he showed his immense talent as he accompanied Mr. Jobin with intelligence and discretely when needed.

Miss Cécile Kirouac, the young and

(1) Jobin, Raoul (born Joseph Roméo). Tenor, teacher, administrator, senior civil servant, born in Quebec City 8 April 1906, died there 13 January 1974; honorary D MUS (Laval) 1952. He came from the working-class district of St-Sauveur where his father owned a tavern. He was a member of the parish choir and a soloist for about ten years. He first took voice lessons from Louis Gravel and, from 1924-1928, studied with Émile Larochelle at Laval University. After a farewell recital in Quebec City he went to Paris, where he continued his studies with Mrs. d'Estainville-Rousset (singing) and Abby Chéreau (stage skills), and at the Institut grégorien de Paris. His exceptional voice captured the attention of Henri Büsser who arranged an audition with Jacques Rouché, then Director of the Paris Opera, who offered him a contract for the following year and also suggested he change his name to 'Raoul'. Jobin returned to Quebec to give some concerts early in 1930 but chiefly to marry the soprano Thérèse Drouin. Later they gave recitals together, and she appeared with him in several operatic productions and concerts. (Reference: Renée Maheu, Marc Samson - <http://thecanadianencyclopedia.com>)



brilliant artist, also accompanied Mr. Jobin. Once more she demonstrated precision and clarity in her execution, hitting the notes with confidence; creating beautiful sound and showing great musical temperament. Chopin's *Nocturne* flowed like a poem. In Bortkiewicz's *Tempest*, Miss Kirouac successfully drew out of the piano all possible stormy effects. In short, it was a great triumph for the young pianist who had to play a number of encores including Frank LaForge's *Romance*.

This concert will surely stand out as one of the best of the season. — M.B.

Trésor Editors' Notes:

(2) Vallières, Henri (Eugène). Organist, teacher, pianist, born in Rivière-du-Loup, Quebec, 8 May 1901. He entered the Séminaire in Quebec City in 1913 where he was taught organ by Henri Gagnon, whom he also assisted at the Quebec Basilica. Vallières was the organist at the seminary between 1920 and 1925. On the death of his father, Eugène, he succeeded him as organist of St-Patrice Church in Rivière-du-Loup. He went to Paris in 1928 and worked with Marcel Dupré (organ). He also attended the *École normale de musique*, where his teachers were Paul Loyonnet (piano) and Henri Potiron (harmony). On his return to Canada, in 1929, he was appointed organist of Notre-Dame-du-Chemin Church in Quebec City, a post he held until 1972. He taught solfège and piano at Laval University 1931-70 and piano and organ at the Quebec Conservatory of Music 1947-72. His pupils included Lucille Baby, harpist with the Quebec Symphony Orchestra, and Jeannine Bégin, teacher at the Montreal Conservatory of Music. He toured with Arthur LeBlanc, violinist, and Raoul Jobin, opera singer. During the 1940s he was music director of 'L'Heure dominicale,' a religious program on CBC radio. His wife was the pianist Gabrielle Hudson (died 1989). Written by Benoît Marineau - <http://thecanadianencyclopedia>



LOVELY CONCERT AT THE UNIVERSITY L'événement (1), December 5, 1931

The programme included: Mr. Louis Gravel, baritone, Miss Cécile Kirouac, pianist, and Mr. Edwin Bélanger, violinist.

GREAT SUCCESS

Mr. Louis Gravel (2), excellent Quebec baritone, professor at Laval University Music School, Miss Cécile Kirouac, virtuoso pianist of great talent, and Mr. Edwin Bélanger (3), violinist, and brilliant pupil of Mr. J.-A. Gilbert, yesterday evening gave a magnificent concert in the Concert Hall of the University. This musical occasion was for the benefit of the poor. It was organized by the Laval branch of the Saint-Vincent-de-Paul Society.

There was a large and distinguished audience who very warmly greeted the artists and requested many encores. Most priests from the Seminary were present as well as all their boarding students.

Mr. Louis Gravel was acclaimed as usual. In three sets of pieces he demonstrated his great musicality and his singing qualities were revealed at their best. This was his first concert of the year and the audience demonstrated how pleased they were to hear him again by enthusiastically applauding him. In the two great arias from Gluck's *Iphigénie en Aulide*, the Quebec baritone used his beautiful, smooth, rich, warm voice to highlight nuances and expressions with an accomplished sense of artistry. In the second group, Mr. Gravel tackled with remarkable accuracy and taste the difficult melodies including the charming piece by Debussy: *Noël des enfants qui n'ont plus de maisons* (Homeless children's Christmas). Mr. Gravel's success was truly great and he sang many encores.

Miss Cécile Kirouac played two solos and also accompanied Mr. Gravel and Mr. Bélanger. The young musician was up to her reputation both as a soloist and as an accompanist and the audience again admired both her mastery of the piano and her musical temperament. Miss Kirouac was asked to play encores after both sets of pieces.

Yesterday evening again, by tackling difficult pieces with conviction and ease, Mr. Bélanger demonstrated his talent and drew well-rounded sound from his instrument. The young violinist was warmly applauded. The *Conférence de Laval* needs to be congratulated for organizing such a beautiful concert.

(1) Article published in *L'événement*, a former Quebec City newspaper

(2) Gravel, Louis. Baritone, teacher (1895-1977). He studied at Quebec City's Teachers Training School and later at The Institute of Musical Art in New York (1916-18). He was First Cantor (Maître Chantre) at Saint-Jean-Baptiste Church in Pawtucket, R.I., and sang at the Woonsocket, R.I., Opera. Back in Quebec, he was First Cantor at Notre-Dame-de-Jacques-Cartier Church (1920-70). In 1924, a Quebec Government scholarship enabled him to study in Paris and, afterwards, he gave many concerts in Nice. He also sang across Canada accompanied by the pianist Berthe Roy.

(3) Edwin Bélanger: Conductor, violinist, altist, arranger, professor (1910-2005). Quebec University bestowed on him an Honoris Causa Doctorate in 1984. One of the founders of the Quebec Philharmonic, he directed it until 1942. With the rank of Captain, he succeeded to Charles O'Neill as the Musical Director of the Royal 22nd Regiment (1937-61) that toured in the USA, Europe and the Far-East. Musician and Conductor, he did many arrangements for Quebec CBC Radio from 1935 onwards. He was titular professor of alto and orchestra at the Quebec City Music Conservatory (1973-85); he was also Musical Director of Concerts Couperin (1977-82) and President of the Quebec Music Academy (1947-50, 1953-56, 1963-65, 1971-74).

(Reference: Author Cécile Huot for the *Encyclopedia of Music in Canada*:
<http://www.canadianencyclopedia.ca/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=U1ARTU0001433>)

A ROVING RHODODENDRON

Some stories may sound quite ordinary when first heard but, when they are put back into their particular context, they do take on a rather special flavour. On a number of occasions, every summer, my uncle Conrad, Brother Marie-Victorin, honoured our family by visiting us at *Maison Ploërmel*, our home in Ancienne-Lorette; usually he was accompanied by some of his famous herbalist friends from the Montreal Botanical Garden.

To my mother, his younger sister, Eudora Kirouac Laurin, whom he always affectionately called "Dodo", he would always bring some flowers asking her to plant them in her beautiful garden in Ancienne-Lorette.

One day, during one of those botanical field expeditions in the area, my uncle Conrad brought her five rhododendrons. He asked her to plant them in her garden and try to make them grow and flower underlining the fact that they were having little success doing so at the Botanical Garden. So my mother planted them in full view by the front entrance of her flowering domain and the rhododendrons grew and bloomed beautifully.

But unfortunately, one day the domain was taken over and sold to build the



Photo : François Kirouac (Collection de l'Association)

Jean-Yves Laurin, Marie and Jacques Kirouac standing in front of the rhododendron given by Brother Marie-Victorin to his sister, Eudora, Mrs. Édouard Laurin.

school that, to this day, stands on a piece of land to the south of the church in Ancienne-Lorette. Together with our house, which was over a hundred years old, the centenary oaks, trees, bushes and flowers disappeared but, thanks to the nuns then living in the nearby convent, that still exists to this day, our rhododendrons were spared because some nuns had the good idea to transplant them into their flowerbeds in front of the convent on Notre-Dame Street.

After a number of years, the rhododendrons started to deteriorate, possibly for lack of sunshine or care. However, one day when passing in front of the convent, a friend of mine, Dr. Louis Parrot, a forest engineer, professor, and Director of the Department of forestry at Laval University's Faculty of Forestry, noted the poor state of the rhododendrons.

With the nuns' permission, he took one of the five plants home with him and transplanted it on his property on Boulevard des Cîmes in Neufchâtel (Quebec City suburb). He took great care of it

and managed to revive it to its original beauty.

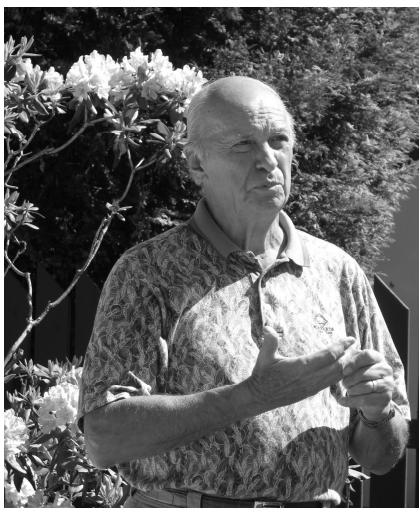
Many years went by. One day, at a summer party at my home in Sainte-Foy, Louis brought me the famous rhododendron and told me its travelling adventures as he knew my sentimental attachment to it.

So I planted the rhododendron in a very special place behind our house in Sainte-Foy and took great care of it, as you can well imagine. Every year, when it blooms at the end of June, it normally produces over 300 flowers; this means it is as good, and even better, than many of the rhododendrons in the **Roger-Van den Hende Botanical Garden*** of Laval University, which is quite a feat.

This is the story of our roving rhododendron over a period of some sixty years. I only wish that my uncle Conrad, Brother Marie-Victorin, could admire it now; how proud and happy he would be!

Jean-Yves Laurin, his nephew

*Well worth a virtual visit on the net: the Botanical Garden started by Roger Van den Hende in 1963, at Laval University, and opened to the public in 1978.



Jean-Yves Laurin, son of Édouard Laurin and Eudora Kirouac (00578)

Photo : Marie Kirouac (Collection de l'Association)



TWO DESCENDANTS OF ABITIBI PIONEER, ANDRÉAS KIROUAC, ON THE ROAD TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA (1)

The distance between Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port in France and Santiago de Compostela in Spain, is 800 km. For thirty-seven days, we walked carrying a backpack. We did it! And it has to be done to know what it is like. On 10 September 2006, my sister, Murielle, and I started walking and, on 18 October 2006, at 10:15 a.m. we finally stood in front of Saint James Cathedral in Compostela, in Galicia, north-west Spain!

Why on earth embark on such an adventure? How do you prepare yourself for such an expedition? What happens inside you and around you during such a walk?

For the *Trésor des Kirouac*, I will only do a quick survey of this adventure and, of course, will not be able to properly answer these questions. As a matter of fact it is impossible to recount the Road to Compostela in a page or two, it really takes a whole book.

At the beginning of 2006, we had decided to go. But we still had to prepare ourselves physically, mentally, materially and spiritually. So my sister and I went to an information meeting of the Quebec Association of the Pilgrims and Friends of Compostela. Murielle attended one in Quebec City and I, in Gatineau, because the association does not exist in Abitibi. Every aspect of the adventure was covered: recommended material and clothing, necessary preparations, various stages, incidentals, etc. At the end of a full day of information a certain tension could already be felt and butterflies started fluttering in my stomach at least.

My sister was already physically in

good shape because she is an avid cyclist, cross-country skier and hiker. So basically she accelerated her training rhythm on the paths between Boischatel and Château-Richer, on the trails in Beauport and along the Montmorency River – easily covering twelve km daily.

As for myself during the next four months in Abitibi, I walked the 1.5 km trail along the lake and the foot-paths in the nearby forest. I am neither an athlete nor the sporty type, but thank goodness, I like walking. The twenty or so residents of Lake Vassan who saw me go by regularly with a knapsack on my back and carrying walking sticks seriously wondered about the behaviour and mental state of their newly retired neighbour! After a few days, everyone knew what was up and relieved to know that 'I was all right'. Next, the bets were on: would I complete the planned expedition or not? Of course at the time I did not know the outcome either!

On 7 September 2006, Murielle and I met at Montreal airport for the

great departure. We were ready and now eager to get on the road, on the *Camino de Santiago*. At that moment, I felt the same emotions and enthusiasm I had felt when at 27, I was on my way for a whole year, on a solitary voyage that took me all over Europe and the Middle-East. But this time around, there were some advantages: financial security, confidence and experience of a sixty-year old woman.

During the walk, I had planned to write every day in a little black book the names of the people met, the villages visited, impressions, emotions, sun and rain. Blessed with an excellent visual memory, I knew by experience that I could jot down key words only and, later on, that would be enough to bring back a place, smells, the life of a whole village or of a pilgrims' hostel usually called 'refuge'. Hence I only covered about forty pages in my little note book. I think my sister has twice, if not three times, as many pages of notes. Not a keen photographer either, I counted on my sister's generosity to see pho-



Collection Murielle Kirouac

September 7, 2006 — Nicole and Murielle Kirouac, an hour before flying to Paris, at Montreal Airport

tos of the whole *camino* adventure after our journey.

In my little black book, on 10 September 2007, I read: Today, I walk for my father and with him.

Short night, e.g. little sleep; it took me a long time to fall asleep. First night in a hostel, this one is a former boarding school for boys in Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port (meaning "Saint John at the foot of the mountain pass- see website). All the other hostels/refuges in the village are full. I slip into my sleeping bag but it already shows its 'limits'; two-bed small rooms; to-and fro in the corridor; snoring coming out of the last room; muffled voices from room across the hallway; silence at long last. Up at 5:50 a.m. Still dark. No need for an alarm clock though, as there is already quite a bit of activity. The first shower is an experience in itself: juggling with towel and clothes trying to keep them dry; on one's bed, in the semi-darkness, swallow a breakfast of yogurt, fruit, juice and croissant.

At 7:20 a.m. we departed from the hostel where I left behind the guide *Miam-Miam dodo* (funny name of the guide of inns, hostels, hotels and restaurants); how I will miss it! Many walkers have already left. You can feel the tension in every hiker. We are all looking for the *camino* road signs: the famous shell of Saint James or the yellow arrows . . . we are on the right road? . . . let's go...!

The Pyrenees are our first challenge. Orisson, a private hostel is our first stop. Scenery is so impressive, moving and breathtaking. Today we climb up to 700 meters. It is hot, very hot and windy. At 11 a.m., we arrived in Orisson; tired of course, but particularly surprised and happy to have easily conquered the first stage. Before the construction of this hostel three years ago, the distance of the first stage was 27.1 km (17 miles) and a climb of 1400 meters (4667 feet), and all hikers had to cover that distance! Now I can better understand why so many pilgrims used to abandon during the first stage of the walk.

This first stage is the opportunity for me to really get in touch with my body. So many sleepy muscles had not been exercised for such a long time; my legs are acting up too as my training was at the most six km at a



Murielle Kirouac says it was very hot but the scenery was magnificent.

Collection Murielle Kirouac



Rough and tough going for the two hikers determined to reach their goal.

Collection Murielle Kirouac



Very arduous hike up to "Sierra del Perdon", under the rain and trudging ankle deep in mud...

Collection Murielle Kirouac





With Sébastien and Claire, sharing a pilgrim's meal in Zubiri...

time and, of course my feet are reacting as well. That was to be expected as they and I had to get used to orthopaedic shoes which I received only on the eve of our departure having been told that I needed them to my great surprise. I also have to get used to carrying a thirteen-pound rucksack holding not the necessary supply but only the essentials for the next thirty-nine days. Now, I see the usefulness and need for my walking sticks. Eight kilometres sound a short distance for a first day but, believe me, it is quite enough!

While waiting for the hostel's rooms to be ready, I go on the terrace and quickly recognize an unmistakable and familiar accent. Three Quebecers from Boischatel (near Quebec City) and two couples from Alsace are sipping beer. I join the group and invite a Catalan, and a French lady and her son to join us. At 7 p.m. we are grateful for a delicious and abundant dinner fit for a king. Happiness is in the air ringing to the sound of songs from Quebec, France and Spain. We are truly enjoying ourselves. But lights out at 9 p.m. everyone is in bed as tomorrow, nineteen kilometres of mountain road awaits us!

Briefly, this is my 'short' first day walking on the road, on the *camino* as we say here. The next thirty-six days will bring a multiplicity of rewarding surprises, joy, solitude and silence, as well as small discomforts, aches and pains; meeting people of all ilk and admiring indescribably awe-inspiring scenery. To condense it all in one short paragraph: The French lady and her son became Michèle and Pierre and they walked the whole *camino* with Murielle and I. The links with them are still holding over the Atlantic Ocean. The Catalan took the name of Sebastian. He left us after four days but gave us some precious advice. In November, I got in touch with him again through Internet. Yes, he managed to complete the walk! The people from Boischatel were Claude, his daughter, Danielle, and her husband, Richard. In April 2007, it was an emotional time, when we watched together at Murielle's house in Boischatel, the slide-show she prepared of our *Chemin de Compostelle*. On May 5, we happily met again for the 23 km tour of Ile-aux-Coudres, a short trek around the island . . . on foot of course!

I could tell you about the pleasure to pick juicy grapes while walking

through the fields that the *camino* crosses but it was even much nicer when the vine-grower himself offered it to us with a heartfelt *buen camino*. There were also the acrobatics needed to come out of the showers with dry clothes. Thousands of *buen camino* were exchanged with as many other hikers who sped ahead of us or that we passed. Through the kilometres all these backpackers became pilgrims. The scenery varied, every minute of the way, just like the ground we walked on: dirt and pebbles, flag stoned pavement, muddy treks, steep mountain sides, river paths, across cities and towns, along highways and what else? How about the sunrises? What a spectacle but, as we were always walking westwards, we had to turn around and look behind us to watch the colourful sight. At that time of the year, blackberries abound everywhere along the road and, as blueberry picking has always been an essential summer activity for me, blackberries were a delicious discovery. Also chestnuts were in abundance, as fields of olive trees, the pungent scent of eucalyptus, the blissful moments sipping the first *café con leche* every morning and later in the day the fresh cool drinking water from hundreds of village fountains. At all time, as thousands of bees do follow the same *camino*, I carried my EpiPen (against anaphylactic reaction - Editor's note.)

I remember the meals shared with other pilgrims, the deep sleep after a 24 km-walk and not in the least disturbed by other hikers' snoring; the blessing of the pilgrims in Roncevaux (mountain pass) and at Triacastela (small town). How could I ever forget the hundred exchanges with Tom, from Germany, so kind and so handsome, with the silent Ursula from Switzerland, Emese, the merry Hungarian who enjoyed speaking French, the short walks with Alain, the generous French and committed trade-unionist whose ad-



dress I regret not to have taken, the two retired gentlemen from Lyon met on a number of occasions along the *camino* and always with pleasure; Alain, the Quebec teacher that Murielle already knew, and all the other pilgrims, young and old, met along this 800 km trek. I can still feel the rain and wind inflating our ponchos turning us into camel-look-alike. If I close my eyes for only a moment, I can still picture the thousands of yellow arrows and St-James Shells showing the *Way* and others less evident that we had to look for.

I often think about the day I hung onto an iron cross some pebbles from my native Abitibi, including one from the Goldfield Mine where my father worked until his death. So much could be written about the majestic cathedral in Burgos. What should I remember and think about the Spanish-Indian who blessed me because he saw a sister in me? Then, I would need a whole chapter to describe the surge of emotions when we arrived in front of the cathedral in Santiago. Immense contentment but, nevertheless, tinted with sadness.

The Way of Saint James to Compostela has been a pilgrimage road for the past twelve hundred years. It is no ordinary voyage and certainly not a tourist attraction. It is an interior journey. It is fraternity, and simplicity chosen involuntarily! It also means to let go and abandon. It means to open up to others and, essentially, it means reassessing one's own values.

Yes, it was . . . ON THE ROAD . . . and as I am concerned I can add without any doubt, will be . . . AGAIN.

When I am old, really very old, I will write about my memories.

Nicole Kirouac from Dubuisson (Abitibi) on the camino to Compostela with her sister Murielle, now from Boischatel, daughters of Amédée and grand-daughters of Andréas Kirouac.

(1) Known in English as: The Way of Saint James



On the eve of reaching Santiago ... only four more kilometres!

Collection Murielle Kirouac



We did it! Arriving in front of Santiago de Compostela Cathedral, on 18 October 2007, at 10:15 a.m. ...

Collection Murielle Kirouac

by H  l  ne Kirouac-Pelletier

The previous lines are a short preamble to show you how proud and honoured we felt during our holiday in Cuba on the Island of Cayo Largo in April 2007. With our friends, Maryse, Richard, and Benoît, Luc and I had the privilege to



Collection Hélène Kirouac

If there is no Marie-Victorin Road in Holguín - not yet ... as André Bouchard would like to see, nevertheless there is a Kirouac tree on the Island of Cayo Largo, in Cuba, thanks to the initiative of our friend Jorge Félix Corobés. My heartfelt thanks.



⁽¹⁾ Please refer to *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 87, spring 2007, page 26



Reaping time (1935—1944)

Botanical Itineraries (Cuba)

First journey to Cuba

SOURCE : Division of archives, University of Montréal.
Marie-Victorin: the itinerary of a botanist
<http://www.archiv.umontreal.ca/mv/expomv.htm>

In 1938, Marie-Victorin began a series of journeys to Cuba. Given his hard work at and for the Montreal Botanical Garden and his many other projects, Brother Marie-Victorin needed a rest and to move to a warmer climate during winter because of health problems. That was fine with him as Brother Léon Sauget, his colleague and friend from the College in Longueuil, kept inviting him to Cuba where he had been working for some years. The Brothers of the Christian Schools had many houses and colleges there then, including the *Colegio de la Salle*. So making up his mind was easy and on 15 December 1938, he left for Havana with

his two sisters, Laura (Mrs. Flavius Lebel) and Eudora (Mrs. Édouard Laurin). They travelled in Brother Marie-Victorin's car driven by his personal chauffeur, Mr. Lucien Charbonneau.

He enjoyed his journey. He and Brother Léon, who knew Cuba's flora very well, went for long excursions. On 28 December 1938, they drove with J. P. Carabia, their assistant. They collected live plants for the Montreal Botanical Garden and various specimens for the herbarium. Brother Marie-Victorin kept a daily journal of all their activities and took many photographs of everything they found: plants, places, and people. He admired the royal palm trees so abundant



Mantanzos Terrace. From left to right: Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Laurin, Mrs. Lebel and Brother Marie-Victorin. Photography taken in 1939. Source: Montreal University Archives. (E0118_Cuba_02)

everywhere and was fascinated by the ways and customs of the country, as he was always when travelling abroad. He compared Cuba with Africa and Haiti. The two explorers crossed the whole island as far as Santiago, capital of the Province of Oriente, where the Brothers ran a school. From there, Marie-Victorin wrote to Rousseau (at the Montreal Botanical Garden): I spent a day in high altitude (900 m.) near Santiago, among Hardy Tree Ferns and Begonias; as soon as I get back to Havana, I will mail to you the *Zamia angustifolia* and various Orchids and Bromeliads.

In Soledad, the two allies visited the botanical garden and the sugar plantation and at the Atkins Institution, they met with American biologists, Thomas Barbour, the Institute's Director, Elmer-D. Merrill from Harvard University and former director of



Brother Marie-Victorin, his sister, Eudora, Marie-Paule Livernois, Laura Kirouac and Dr. Livernois' wife. (Collection Jean-Yves Laurin)

the New York Botanical Garden, and David Fairchild, a travelling-botanist. They also explored Pine Island before finally returning to Havana. When he returned to Montreal on 15 March 1939, Brother Marie-Victorin's health had greatly improved and his head was full of new projects.

In August 1939, he went back to Cuba for three weeks. As he jotted down his daily notes, he considered turning his accounts into a book on the Cuban Flora. He even thought about a title: *Itinéraires botaniques dans l'Île de Cuba* (Botanical Itinerary on the Island of Cuba).

Return trips to the Island of Cuba

Brother Marie-Victorin would return to Cuba every winter until 1944. In 1940, from March 17 until May 12, again he explored the mountains and savannahs of Ha-

vana and Oriente. In a valley, a mass of flowers attracted his attention: the *Cochlospermum vitifolium*. He never stopped taking notes about the plant systems, their growing and living habits and habitats. He wished he had his team working with him, it would have been most useful. He worked so much that, by the time he left, the manuscript in his baggage was almost ready for publication and he also brought back lots of photographs to illustrate it.

During the winter 1941, he returned to Havana. Once more he was worried about his health. He went on some long excursions with Brothers Léon, Cyprien and Alain-Joseph but he would no longer accompany them in the hills. So together they visited the Zapata marshland, the Sierra de Nipe, the Pinar del Rio lagoons, Laguna de Santa Maria, Port of



Brother Marie-Victorin holding a *Poepigia procera*. Photography taken in Cuba circa 1942. Source: Brothers of the Christian Schools' Archives. (FEC0012)

Spain (Capital of Trinidad and Tobago), Kingston (Jamaica) and the District of Moa. WOW! Between two excursions, Brother Marie-Victorin again met the American biologists. The Atkins Institute was interested in subsidizing the Itineraries (they subsidized the first volume). The following year, during an excursion in the District of Moa (Oriente), Marie-Victorin discovered a new species: *Dracaena cubensis*.

His voyages to Cuba would generate three volumes, Botanical Itinerary on the Island of Cuba I, II, and III, published successively in 1942, 1944 and 1956. (See Marie-Victorin's bibliography for the exact references.)

French text written by Johanne Thibadeau for Montreal University's Website and translated by Marie Lussier Timperley for Le Trésor des Kirouac, number 88, summer 2007.



Brother Marie-Victorin and J.P. Carabia observing a *Microcycas calocoma*, at Consolacion del Sur (Cuba). Photography taken in 1939. Source: Montreal University Archives. (E) 1185FP11600



PRESS REVIEW

Summary of the censorship
of Gerald Nicosia and MEMORY BABE
by the Kerouac Estate and Viking Penguin

By Gerald Nicosia

NOTE TO THE READERS

The following text is a shortened version prepared by Gerald Nicosia of the thirty-page press release he presented at a news conference in New York City on June 5, 2007. To better inform its readers, the Editor of Le Trésor deemed it essential to publish this text with the permission of Gerald Nicosia. The content is the sole responsibility of its author.

The Editors

This story goes back at least to the filing of Jan Kerouac's lawsuit against the Sampas family, for forging her grandmother Gabrielle Kerouac's will, in 1994. I supported her lawsuit for a lot of good reasons--but suffice it to name two here: there was medical testimony that the paralyzed Gabrielle Kerouac could physically not have signed the will purported to be hers (which left everything of Jack Kerouac's to the Sampases); and Jan, who was dying of kidney failure at the time, had made clear her intention to preserve all of Kerouac's manuscripts in a library, whereas the Sampases were (and still are) selling them off piecemeal to collectors and dealers, and only occasionally to a library.

At the time, 1994, when I showed public support for Jan's position, John Sampas, the Kerouac Executor, stated that he was going to destroy my career as a Kerouac

scholar and biographer. A threat like that from an ordinary Joe means virtually nothing, but when the guy making the threat sits on an estate now valued at thirty million dollars, and controls some of the most valuable copyrights in literary history, it becomes a serious business.

In 1995, John Sampas went into the University of Massachusetts, where I'd placed (by partial sale, partial donation) all my research materials, tapes and papers, from MEMORY BABE. I had put them there for public study. Sampas demanded that the archive be closed, locked up. He is a major donor to the University of Massachusetts, and swings a lot of weight politically in the small town of Lowell. The library proceeded to lock up my archive, so that even I could not get access to my own research materials, could not listen to my own interview tapes. The tapes were on old, cheap cassettes and the sound quality was already starting to degrade. My fear was that if the tapes were not properly copied or digitalized, all 300 interviews would be lost forever. I had to wage an 11 year legal battle with the university, for breach of contract among other things, before I finally won last year--by settlement. I agreed to pay for the digitalizing of the tapes, and the archive was reopened, and I got copies of all the



Gerald Nicosia (Photo: cover page of Memory Babe)

interviews--except for John Sampas's--on CD. Of note is the fact that John Sampas continually pressured the university and its lawyers throughout the negotiations to keep the archive closed--which the university lawyers reported again and again to my attorney.

It became clear, from the mid 1990's on, that I was being excluded from conferences, films, books on Kerouac, and so forth. I suspected that John Sampas was pressuring people, using his control of copyrights and permissions as a hammer, but at first I had no evidence. Then the evidence began to come in, and mount up. I obtained a copy of a letter that Sampas's agent Sterling Lord wrote to a third party, explaining that John Sampas would never allow me to edit any material of Kerouac's. I was told by filmmakers Doug and Judy Sharples, who had just finished a Kerouac documentary film called GO MOAN FOR MAN, that John Sampas had refused to give them permission to quote from Kerouac unless they removed me completely from their film. Doug Brinkley himself would later admit to me that Sampas

was pressuring him to keep my name out of the Kerouac books he was writing and editing with Sampas's permission.

Sampas and his agent Sterling Lord even went so far as to try to force the University of California Press to put my biography *MEMORY BABE* out of print. He also contributed to the \$400,000 in legal fees, in conjunction with Jan Kerouac's two heirs, John Lash and David Bowers, so that I would be forced out of my job as Jan's literary executor (after her death in 1996), to keep me from bringing the will challenge to court on behalf of Jan's Estate. There is documentation on all of this.

This blacklist or censorship became pervasive. What surprised me was how many "good" people went along with it, because they either wanted the perks that the Kerouac Estate could offer, or were afraid of John Sampas's power to isolate or stop their own work as well.

Early in 2006, I received an excerpt from the manuscript of Bill Morgan's Ginsberg biography, *I CELEBRATE MYSELF*, which dealt with my relationship with Ginsberg (always quite complex). Morgan had included a quotation from Ginsberg's journal that I had never seen before, from the time when he had first read *MEMORY BABE*. Ginsberg had raved about the fact that *MEMORY BABE* captured Kerouac better than any other biography, and at the end of the quotation, he called *MEMORY BABE* a "great book." Needless to say, I was very happy this quote was finally seeing the light of day, especially since Sampas had for years been hiring hack writers to attack *MEMORY BABE* as a "fraudulent book," "mostly invented,"

and so forth. Having this quote from Ginsberg out in public would put a lot of those vicious attacks to rest.

Then in the fall of 2006 I saw the printed book, *I CELEBRATE MYSELF*, and the quotation was entirely gone. In its place, on p. 566, it said something like, "In the tent that night, Ginsberg read a new Kerouac biography." No mention of my name or of *MEMORY BABE*. I protested this deletion to Penguin, but got no response. I asked that the passage be restored in the paperback, and again got no response.

In early March of this year, I was interviewing John Leland, author of the forthcoming Viking Penguin book *WHY KEROUAC MATTERS*. We were talking about how Kerouac had influenced his life, and out of the blue he told me that Penguin editor Paul Slovak had been pressuring him to remove or change citations to me in the manuscript of his book *WHY KEROUAC MATTERS*. At that time, Leland said there were several citations to *MEMORY BABE* in his book-length essay. When I saw galleys of his book, it was clear that my name had been removed in several places. There was now only one citation to *MEMORY BABE*, and there were three *DIRECT QUOTES* from *MEMORY BABE* with no citation whatsoever. Above and beyond everything else, to quote from someone's book without a citation is flatly unethical. There was a reference to *MEMORY BABE* in his acknowledgments, which referred to *MEMORY BABE* as a book "mostly about Kerouac's decline" (not true), but acknowledging that a book has been used as a "source" does not cover

taking words directly from someone's text without acknowledgment.

I complained to Penguin about this. I also complained about the "scroll" edition of *ON THE ROAD*. There is material in Howard Cunnell's introduction that unequivocally comes from *MEMORY BABE*. But in the bibliography of 27 Kerouac books in the "scroll" edition, there is no mention of me or *MEMORY BABE*. Even more ironically, half of those books listed in the bibliography themselves list *MEMORY BABE* as a source. It was clear *MEMORY BABE* had deliberately been omitted or erased from the bibliography. Penguin again refused to do anything about this, or even to acknowledge that these actions--tampering with literary history in a very serious way--are unethical. I have sounded a number of major scholars on this, including Matthew Bruccoli, the preeminent Fitzgerald scholar, and his response was that Penguin's actions "violate every ethical principle of good publishing and good scholarship."

With Penguin refusing to restore my name in places where it was removed from important historical, biographical, and literary texts, I felt I had no choice but to make the issue public. Hence the press conference I gave in New York on June 5, 2007. Penguin has denied everything, but I have the evidence on paper, in black and white—including proof of the removal of my name in at least 5 places in three different Viking Penguin books.



PRESS RELEASE

11th ANNIVERSARY OF JANET MICHELE KEROUAC'S DEATH (16 FEBRUARY 1952 - 5 JUNE 1996)
AND 50th ANNIVERSARY OF *ON THE ROAD*

On June 5, 2007, at a press conference in New York, Gerald Nicosia, Jack Kerouac's biographer and author of *MEMORY BABE*,¹ wanted to emphasize the eleventh anniversary of the passing of Jack Kerouac's only daughter, Janet Michele (Jan) Kerouac, on June 5, 1996 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Considering Janet Michele Kerouac's very special affection for her famous father's Quebec ancestral origins, the Kirouac Family Association also wishes to draw attention to the anniversary of her passing by shedding more light on her as an author who unfortunately died too young and deserves to be better known.

Very few people know that Janet Michele Kerouac came to Quebec City in the autumn of 1988 invited by the *Club Jack Kerouac*² to take part in a reception organized thanks to the financial and logistic support of the *Secrétariat permanent des peuples francophones* (Permanent Office of the French-Speaking peoples). Following this, she was invited to the Restaurant Chez Camille to meet with the Kirouac Family Association Board members and Jacques Kirouac, the KFA founding President. This was her chance to discover "the family she had always been

deprived of" as she explained in her own words. She became a KFA member then and, until her death, always kept in touch with Jacques Kirouac. A text³ written by Jacques Kirouac relating this visit was to be published in *Parrot Fever*, Janet Michele's third unfinished novel which publication is still pending for legal reasons it seems.

It is important to remember that Janet Michele is Jack Kerouac's only child --- and perfectly legitimate --- born to his second wife, Joan Virginia Haverty Kerouac, whom Jack separated from because she refused to have the abortion he was demanding: "As she refused (the abortion), he went back to live with his mother refusing to recognize the baby as his. Joan also went back to her own mother in Albany; hence began the tragic saga of Janet Michele Kerouac."⁴ Jack's main objection to the pregnancy was that a baby would impede his writings; but it was money matters that were later invoked when a tribunal forced Jack to pay alimony to support his daughter, his paternity having been established through blood tests. In addition, it is a form of consanguine haemophilia inherited from her father that hastened Janet Michele's death.

There were never any relationships between father and daughter; Jack only met her

twice and very briefly. The first time, Janet was ten years old and the second time, she was fifteen, pregnant and about to elope to Mexico with John Lash, a neighbour, ten years older than her. It is on that occasion that Jack told her: "Write a book ... use my name if you want." Soon after that meeting, the baby was stillborn and buried without any ceremony in Mexico. Right from the beginning, life was never easy for Jan and her fatal attraction to manipulative machos only brought her disillusion. Tired from this never-ending search for what really was the father image, Janet Michele finally

¹ Gerald Nicosia, *Memory Babe: a critical biography of Jack Kerouac*, (original edition) New York, Grove Press, 1983. Second edition: University of California Press, 1994.

Gerald Nicosia, *Memory Babe : Une biographie critique de Jack Kerouac*, Éditions Québec/Amérique, Montréal, 1994. Translated into French in Quebec by Marcel Deschamps and Élisabeth Vonarburg. 776 pages including new exclusive photos.

² *Club Jack Kerouac* ceased its activities soon after the dissolution of the *Secrétariat permanent des peuples francophones* following a change of government in Quebec.

³ Jacques Kirouac - *Meeting Jan Kerouac, Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 84, June 2006, pages 14-15.

⁴ Gerry Nicosia - *Biography of Jan Kerouac, Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 83, March 2006. KFA Member.

resigned herself to the fact that she would never be able to develop a stable relationship with a man. Jan's literary output consists of only three novels: two were published: *Baby Driver* and *Train Song*; the third one, *Parrot Fever*, is her unfinished novel which copyright was sold by Gerald Nicosia, then her literary agent and faithful friend, before her death to Thundermouth Press; Nicosia had met Jan while interviewing people to write *MEMORY BABE*, his authoritative biography of Jack Kerouac.

Jan was known as her fathers 'bad girl' but John Lash's sister testified otherwise and this text was published in the *Trésor des Kirouac* in June 2006; it gives a very different picture: "...I have remained largely silent over the ten years that she has been gone. I have grieved deeply, and have not deigned to join the fray of writers who, captivated by Jan's lineage as the only child of an American literary icon, have portrayed her as the creative, bad girl Kerouac who veered 'off the road' to heroin, prostitution, and hard living. Instead, to my family, and me Jan was more than the stuff of the 'autobiographical fiction' she described in her books. She was part of the fabric of our lives, a part that became more tightly woven at the end of her life." *Deborah Lash Bower*

By the same token and just before celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of *ON THE ROAD*, the cult-novel of the *Beat Generation*, we wish to convey a testimony of sincere appreciation for the exceptional quality of *MEMORY BABE*, the major biography of Jack Kerouac

written by Gerald Nicosia. His presentation of Jack Kerouac's life seems to us to be of an undeniable authenticity and objectivity. His strictness without complacency honours Nicosia, even if, to Jack's family, his portrait can be shocking at times. Very recently, Éric Waddell, founding president of the now defunct *Club Jack Kerouac* of Quebec City, strongly underlined the fact that *MEMORY BABE* remains, without any doubt whatsoever, the essential biography and is compulsory reading in order to understand Jack Kerouac and his literary works, because it takes into account the influence of Jack's family cultural backgrounds. Gerry Nicosia is the first and probably the only one in the whole American literary community – except for Victor-Lévy Beaulieu, who published in French in 1972, his *Essai-Poulet* ⁵ on Jack Kerouac; VLB understood and underlined the immense influence Jack's obsessive attachment to his French-Canadian and Breton origins had on his works.

To support this affirmation, it is important to mention that during the only officially French-speaking international gathering *Rencontre internationale Jack Kerouac* organized by the *Club Jack Kerouac*, here in Quebec City, 1-4 October 1987, attended by over 400 people including leading American literary authors who knew Jack Kerouac, Ann Charters, a biographer of Jack, admitted that she had completely missed the French Canadian influence.

KFA REACTION PUT INTO CONTEXT

Further to the press conference given by Gerald Nicosia on 5 June 2007 in New York, different articles and interviews have appeared in the media. In an interview given on 6 June 2007 by Paul Slovak, of Viking Penguin Editor & Publisher, to Russell Goldman, from ABC News.com, we noted the following declaration that appears to us to be totally baseless and irrelevant in regard to Gerald Nicosia and his relationship with the Kerouac family: "*He's been making these allegations against Viking and the Kerouac family for years.*"

Ever since Mr. Gerald Nicosia started being interested in the family history and the literary works of Jack Kerouac, it was never brought to the Kirouac Family Association inc.'s attention that he would have said anything unseemly or made any harmful allegation against the Kerouac or Kirouac family, notwithstanding the various spelling of the name.

Therefore we completely denounce and reject this affirmation made by Mr. Paul Slovak, of Viking Penguin Press, and we hope that unless he can support his saying with only one proof, he should acknowledge his error by retracting it.

The Editors

During that gathering, Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Allen Ginsberg, who both were intimate friends

⁵ Victor-Lévy Beaulieu – Complete Works, Tome 10, *Jack K rouac – Essai-Poulet* ( ditions Trois-Pistoles - 1996) and original edition, ( ditions du jour – 1972).



of Jack, also confirmed that they had never understood the meaning and importance of Jack Kerouac's affection for his family origins.

Through some uncanny coincidence and, if it had not been for Jack's premature death in 1969, Youenn Gwernig,⁶ Jack's friend from Brittany, then living in New York City, had planned to accompany Jack on his second trip to Brittany when they were to go to Huelgoat, the birthplace of the K/ ancestor. Of course that would have been sheer luck as both ignored that Urbain-François Le Bihan, sieur de Kervoach, who came to New France between 1721 and 1726, was the ancestor of all the K/rouacs, no matter how the name is written nowadays, either with an i, e, é, a, y, with or without a 'k' at the end, as the ancestor's true identity was only discovered thirty years later at the very end of the 1990s.

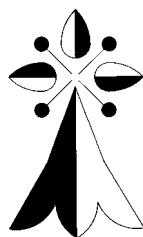
Concerning her father's works, Jan kept dreaming and hoping that his archives, in their entirety, would be kept in a single place in a great American university and that all would remain freely accessible to all who wished to study Jack Kerouac's works. Unfortunately for her, the settlement of the estate of Gabrielle Lévesque, Jack's mother, has resulted in a never-ending legal battle and the hearings of the case are still pending in a Florida Court. A few months before her death, Jan asked Gerry Nicosia to promise her to carry on her fight to see that her father's archives would not be divided up and sold piecemeal to the highest bidder. It is most unfortunate to see that the procedures are still lagging and that, in the mean time, Jack's

remaining archives have been dispersed and are accessible only to a privileged 'chosen' few.

The Kirouac Family Association's objectives being to discover, disseminate and insure the conservation of its historical heritage, consider it a duty to keep alive and well Janet Michele Kerouac's memory as much as her father's.

For the literary readers' world, Jack stopped writing in 1969 but, for us, the great chapter dedicated to Jack in our History book is far from being closed and this duty also extends to Janet Michele's right to have her own chapter. That is why the present statement has been fully endorsed by the Kirouac Family Association and unanimously adopted by a Board resolution on Saturday, June 9, 2007 in Quebec City.

François Kirouac
President, Association
des familles Kirouac inc./
Kirouac Family Association



⁶ Youenn Gwernig (Scaër - 1925 / Douarnenez - 2006) Sculptor, musician, writer and great defender of traditional Celtic culture in Brittany. Became an American citizen but went back to live in his native Brittany in the late sixties. In 2000 during a public meeting with a KFA delegation at the Huelgoat City Hall, he shared his souvenirs of Jack Kerouac.

IN MEMORIAM

Sister Cécile Kirouac R.J.M. (Saint-Robert-Marie) (AFK 00500)

At the provincial infirmary of the Religieuses de Jésus-Marie (R.J.M.) Congregation, on 25 May 2007, at the age of 99 years and eleven months, after 74 years of religious life, passed away Sister Cécile Kirouac, born in the parish of Saint-Roch, Quebec City. She was the daughter of the late Ernest Kirouac and the late Alice Bolduc.

Funeral Mass took place on 29 May 2007 in the Congregation's chapel followed by burial in the R.J.M. Congregation cemetery in Sillery. She leaves to mourn besides her religious family, many cousins including Céline Kirouac (from Quebec City), Board Member of the Kirouac Family Association, and many friends. She was the sister of the late Jean-Robert (husband of the late Jessie-Lucille Buchanan).

Céline Kirouac (AFK 01137)

On Sunday, 13 May 2007, at the age of 54 years and eight months, passed away at home in Warwick, Céline Kirouac, daughter of the late Gérard Kirouac and the late Thérèse Desrochers. She leaves to mourn her brother, Michel (Chantal Lemay), her sister, Monique (Mario Provencher), and her dear aunts Hélène, Françoise and Marguerite Kirouac, Rose Desrochers (Gérard Laroche) as well as many cousins and friends.

Funeral Mass was on Friday, 18 May 2007, in Saint-Médard Church in Warwick immediately followed by burial in the Parish cemetery.

Céline acted as secretary for the KFA board meetings from 1985 until 2000.

Our deepest condolences to the bereaved families.



Well Deserved Acknowledgment for Local Authors

L'Express, Drummondville and region, Internet version

Article online April 13, 2007

Many winners were on hand to receive their prize.

Eight authors from the Drummondville area won recognition from the Regional Environment Research and Education Centre, (CRÉER = Centre de recherche et d'éducation à l'environnement régional) in the literary contest on the theme: "*L'environnement, j'en fais toute une histoire*"(1).

For the second year, the contest gave people from the Centre-of-Quebec region the opportunity to express themselves through writing short stories, children's stories, essays or poems on long-term development.

"This theme touches on many current concerns: climatic changes, integrated watershed management at the watershed level (2), waste management, responsible consumption . . . People were free to express their opinion on the foundation of long-term development", added people responsible for the contest."

The award ceremony took place at the *Quebec National Police School* in Nicolet, in the presence of about forty people. The winners' names were publicly announced then and it was underlined that every one of them cares both about writing and the environment.

And the winners are: Miriam Fillion, from Saint-Christophe-in Arthabaska County; Catherine

Charest, from Bécancour; Corinne Merle, from Lyster; **Hélène Kirouac, from Warwick**; Nicolas Gendron, from Victoriaville; France Dezainde, from Saint-Germain-de-Grantham; Stéphanie Doucet, from Bécancour, and Armande Fréchette, from Saint-Christophe-d'Arthabaska.

"During the forty-minute ceremony, the judges also explained on what basis the texts were chosen. Winning entries from the previous year were also read", mentioned Charles Verville, a volunteer from the CRÉER.

In the coming weeks, the writers' winning texts will be published in a booklet form. Copies will be sent to every library in the Centre-of-Québec Region.

Parallel to the writing contest

was a drawing contest on the same theme won by Corinne Merle, from Lyster. Her winning artwork will illustrate the booklet.

Source for French article:

<http://www.journalexpress.ca/article-i94648-Des-honneurs-bien-merites-pour-des-auteurs-locaux.html>

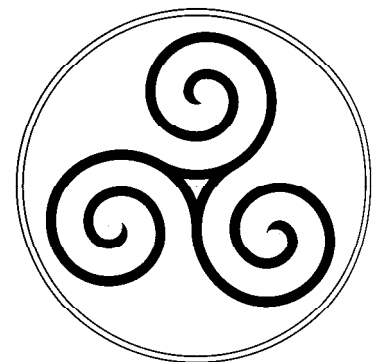
(1) Translator's note: This is a clever pun. In French it means both: The environment, make a fuss about it & write a story about it. (Translation by Marie Lussier Timperley.)

(2) For more info, see Quebec Government English Website: www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/eau/bassinversant



Photo centre: Hélène Kirouac, former KFA Board Member from 1997 to 2002. Hélène also wrote a number of texts published in various *Le Trésor* over the years.

Photo: L'Express de Drummondville



PRESERVING K/ FAMILY HERITAGE PHOTOS

There are more photos and documents either sent or lent to us further to our request in our spring bulletin inviting you, our readers, to help us preserve the K/rouac photographic heritage and constitute a K/ photo bank.

On the right, we reproduce the publicity printed in *L'Union des Cantons de l'Est*, an Eastern Townships paper, on Wednesday, 5 August 1964, advertising Robert Kirouac's Band playing at the *Club Indien* of *Hôtel Huron* in Victoriaville (Quebec).

To place Robert in our family genealogical tree: he was the son of

Gérard (AFK 01084) and Marie-Anne Pèlerin; a grandson of Alphonse and great-grandson of Eusèbe-Calixte from Warwick.

Robert's daughter, Nancie, was the KFA regional representative for the Greater Montreal area from 1998 and 2001. This newspaper clipping was given to us by Bruno Kirouac from Warwick.

Below, a photo given to us a few years ago that fits perfectly within the heritage photo project. Unfortunately, we have misplaced the name of the generous person who offered it to us.

As you read this, if you realize that

you are this kind person, please let us know and, in the mean time, accept our apologies and thanks.

These two examples illustrate what we wish to preserve for posterity. Individual and wedding photos are particularly interesting as they help illustrate the people in our database.

Do not hesitate to get in touch to help us with this project and, in so doing, help us preserve images of members of your family - our large extended family - for future generations.

The Editor



From left to right: 1st row: Auguste Donald, baby Charles, Azélie Blanchette, Delphine, Louis Kirouac, in his lap Léon, and Alphonse; 2nd row: Marie, Emma, Arthur, Joseph, Éva, Pierre, Auxilia and Azélie. (Source: unknown)

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PRESS RELEASE

Four Centuries of Excellence

Today's Great and Famous Talk About Yesterday's Great and Famous
Québec City, Tuesday, 12 June 2007

 In 2008, The Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec (CCNQ) will present a special programme entitled *Le Grenier de l'histoire SSQ* (SSQ History's Attic) in order to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of Foundation of Quebec. On 12 June 2007, at 2 p.m., the first part of this programme, entitled *Today's Great People Talk About Yesterday's Great Personalities*, was launched at the Palais Montcalm (Quebec City's largest concert hall).

From October 2007 until November 2008, twelve evening stage-productions will be presented at the Raoul-Jobin Hall at the new Palais Montcalm, in collaboration with *Quebec National Order*, the *Society of the 400th Anniversary of Quebec City* and the *Palais Montcalm Society*. This series combining history, theatre, and music will be presented by different recipients of the *Quebec National Order* who will talk about past historical personalities that inspired them during their respective career.

Wishing to showcase our past history's richness, The *Society of the 400th Anniversary of Quebec City* will make best use of the concept promoted by SSQ *History's Attic* since its inception. Hence the Society is delighted to join forces with the CCNQ, *Quebec National Order* and the Palais Montcalm Society to announce a first part to vividly illustrate our builders' accomplishments.

"The essence of Quebec's 400th Anniversary consists in celebrating our past, our present and our future", reminds Mr. Jean Leclerc, President of Board of the Society. "Thanks to this project: *Today's Great People Talk About Yesterday's Great Personalities* from 'History's Attic', we will look back

at 400 years of history, its builders and visionaries, through today's eyes. These meetings will inevitably inspire us for the coming years."

This series of evening stage-productions will also be the occasion for the *Quebec National Order* to be discovered by a much larger public. "It will be a golden opportunity to open a door on excellence, determination, creativity and humanity of great Quebecers past and present", underlined Bernard Voyer, President of the Board of the *Quebec National Order*. "I am very happy to note that our *History Tribunal* has opened the way to this remarkable series of conference-stage-productions" declared the President and General Director of the CCNQ, Mr. Jacques Langlois. Supported by the excellent collaboration of *Quebec National Order*, the Palais Montcalm, also by the Group SSQ Financial Group as well as the Society of the 400th, we are therefore able to offer to Quebecers a superb programme, in a notable environment" added Mr. Langlois.

For the Palais Montcalm Society, this series of evening stage-productions "will make it possible not only for important people who have influenced and are still influencing our lives, added the General Director. Mr. Stephan La Roche, "but it will also make use of music in a new and unusual way, and this is perfectly in line with our mission. We are particularly happy that this series starts by the conference on Raoul Jobin and launches at the same time the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the Palais Montcalm."

As early as 30 June 2007, season tickets can be purchased for \$70 including taxes and service charges. Tickets for individual performances will

be on sale on 15 September 2007, costing \$12 each including taxes and service charges. This is a unique occasion to discover, at a reasonable price, the new Raoul-Jobin Hall at the Palais Montcalm.

For information and subscription: Palais Montcalm Ticket office - (418) 641-6040.

Programme

8 October 2007: Joseph-Alfred Rouleau talks about Raoul Jobin;

12 November 2007: M^{gr} Maurice Couture talks about M^{gr} François de Laval;

11 February 2008: Madeleine Arbour talks about Paul-Émile Borduas;

10 March 2008: Albert Millaire talks about Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville;

7 April 2008: Nicole Fournier talks about Marguerite d'Youville;

12 May 2008: Gisèle Lamoureux talks about Frère Marie-Victorin;

9 June 2008: Claude Béland talks about Alphonse Desjardins;

14 July 2008: Guy Laliberté and Jules Bélanger talk about René Lévesque;

11 August 2008: Michel Chrétien talks about Félix d'Hérelle;

8 September 2008: Yves Morin and Louis Dionne talk about Catherine de Saint-Augustin and Michel Sarrazin;

13 October 2008: L. Jean Fournier talks about Maurice Richard;

10 November 2008: Jean-Claude Poiras talks about Denise Pelletier.

Marie-Paule Kirouac loves a day like this ...

A Shower for the General Director of Maison Aube-Lumière

Sherbrooke, Saturday, 14 April 2007
By Mario Goupil, for *La Tribune*

SHERBROOKE — Marie-Paule Kirouac was all smiles and for good reasons. What a day it was and she loved every moment of it as, within a few hours, she received no less that \$15,168.42 for the *Maison Aube-Lumière*.

Without the generosity of so many people, the *Maison Aube-Lumière* would cease to exist as personal gifts represent close to 60% of its annual operating budget of \$1.1 millions. Therefore, all donations, from the smallest to the largest, are vital and essential to the existence of this residence that welcomes cancer patient in need of palliative care.

Réal Beaulieu was the first one to show up with money on that snowy morning. He said he felt a bit awkward at presenting his gift to Mrs. Kirouac.

The Beaulieu Family Association of America was dissolved following the death of its president and, while still alive, he had asked that whatever amount of money left in the Association's bank account be given to a good cause. So Réal Beaulieu presented it to Maison Aube-Lumière. "It is not much, he said, but it is a gift from the heart."

Patrice Dupont, President of the Board of Coop-Tel, came to the residence and presented Mrs. Kirouac with a gift of \$5000. "This is for a good cause and it is good publicity for us at the same time. Both Maison Aube-Lumière and Coop-Tel gain from it, he added as he mentioned that his father had died from cancer two years before.

Well worth the move

Marie-Paule Kirouac had to go out to receive the next donation. Robert



Robert Morin and Marie-Paule Kirouac (Photo: Immacom, Maxim Picard)

Morin, a well known businessman, wished to present Mrs. Kirouac a donation in the name of the Immex Company. But after a rather painful visit to the dentist he stayed home and Mrs. Kirouac went to his house to collect Robert Morin's gift.

"One evening, Mr. Morin called me at home to say that, to mark the tenth anniversary of the Maison Aube-Lumière, he wished to give \$10,000. I would love to get a call like that every day", says Marie-Paule Kirouac.

Robert Morin is one of the owners of Immex, a management firm and he insists that this is a gift from Immex. It is a known fact that for the past two years, Robert Morin has been battling cancer. First he was treated for a colon cancer but, later metastases developed in his lungs and he had to undergo chemotherapy again.

"It is not bad but it is not good. Let's say it is stable at the moment, Sometimes I am quite fed up. It is like climbing a mountain and I am not at the top yet. There are still some metastases."

Robert Morin presented a cheque for \$10,000. to Marie-Paule Kirouac quite aware that he might end up at Maison Aube-Lumière if he does not win his two-year the battle against cancer.

"Will I end up there one day? I do not think about it. Death is a natural thing;

it is part of life. We all get there sooner or later. So, I am ready to die" he says. He is only sixty years old and says that, in spite of the illness, his spirit is good. He adds: "My aim is to fight as long as possible."

As far as the Maison Aube-Lumière is concerned, Robert Morin promises that Immex will continue to support this work even after he is gone.

"Mrs. Kirouac welcomes people and accompanies them during the last part of their journey on earth and, as far as I am concerned, a residence like hers is absolutely needed. One day I will die but Immex will keep supporting Aube-Lumière." This is the promise of the very wealthy Sherbrooke businessman.

Translated by Marie Lussier Timperley for Le Trésor des Kirouac, number 88, summer 2007.



Life in New France at the time of our Ancestor

Compiled by Louis-Guy Lemieux, journalist, for *Le Soleil*, Quebec daily, as a preamble to the forthcoming commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the foundation of Quebec City in 2008.

Part 2.

Part 1 in the Spring 2007 *Le Trésor*.

Québec in 1731

Bishop Dosquet, who was briefly bishop of Quebec, complains that the “lower class” use the terrace of the Bishop’s residence as a playground on Sundays and Feast Days and that “the noise generated by people bowling and playing croquet is deafening and causes headaches”.

Intendant Hocquart condemns Claude Lebeau in abstentia to be hanged and strangled until death occurs. Sentence is executed the following day, 13 January 1731, with Lebeau’s effigy hanging. Lebeau is accused of making false card money. He managed to escape to Boston and, from there, to board a ship to Holland.

Photo : www.mrvs.qc.ca



Gilles Hocquart, Intendant of New France from 1729 until 1748

Every spring, all inhabitants must make sure their pigs are ringed, for the whole period between the melting of the snow to the first snow in autumn. To ring a pig means put a ring in its snout to prevent it from digging the soil.

(Sources: *Quebec Popular History* by Jacques Lacoursière; *Québec Chronologie* by Jean Provencher)

Québec in 1732

Bad harvests threaten the colony’s trade as well as the port and maritime activities of Quebec. However, on 27 October 1732, Intendant Hocquart writes to his Minister (in France) that “cultivating the land along the coasts can supply the inhabitants with enough to live comfortably and industry gives the same possibilities to towns’ people”.

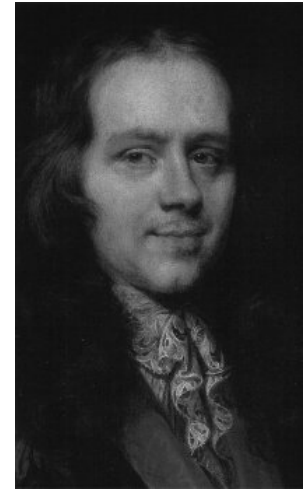
Shipbuilding is growing in Quebec City. It will soon be an important industry. The King (of France) grants 150 pounds for each 30 to 60-ton ship built in Quebec City. For 200-ton ships and over, the royal grant will be 500 pounds.

An order in council forbids horse racing during the Holy Services and also to get out of churches to smoke during the sermon.

(Sources: *Quebec Popular History* by Jacques Lacoursière; *Québec Chronologie* by Jean Provencher)

Québec in 1733

Intendant Hocquart maintains the right to own and sell slaves. North-American-Indian slaves are more numerous than black slaves. Parish priests and religious con-



Michel Sarrazin
(1659-1734)

gregations own the largest number of slaves, according to historian Marcel Trudel who drew a complete listing of them. Epidemics and repeated periods of scarcity increase the number of patients at the General Hospital to as many as 2000 at the same time.

During the autumn, people in the Quebec region and the whole colony are terrorized by an earthquake and the aftershocks lasted forty days.

Jean Carrier obtains the right to be the official water-taxi for the Governor and the *Intendent* when they go to Montréal or when they come back to Quebec City. He also acts as King’s messenger, carrying mail, always travelling by the river.

(Sources: *Quebec Popular History* by Jacques Lacoursière; *Québec Chronologie* by Jean Provencher)

Québec in 1734

After years of scarcity, the colony finally enjoys a plentiful wheat harvest: 737,892 minots of wheat. (approx. 32 million litres – Editor’s note).

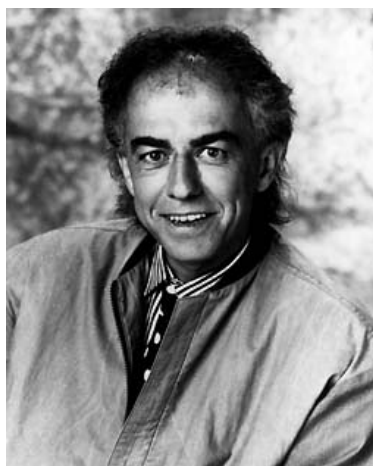
It snows in Quebec City on 29 September 1734.

The King allows soldiers to get married after three years in the colony.

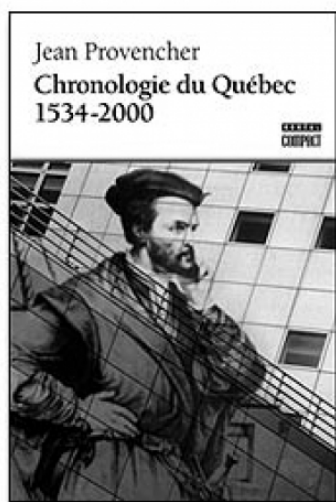
All the Quebec City horse-drawn cart-drivers who carry garbage from lands and old buildings located in the lower-town are ordered to throw everything along the river shore.

In 1717 there were ten sawmills in the colony and by 1734 there were fifty-two. The population of New France was then 37,716 habitants.

Michel Sarrazin, a medical doctor and natural scientist dies in Quebec City. (see also *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, Number 80, June 2005).



Jean Provencher, historian and author of one of the books quoted in the series published in *Le Soleil*, Quebec City daily.



Opening of the Quebec-City-Montreal land road.

(Sources: *Quebec Popular History* by Jacques Lacoursière; *Québec Chronologie* by Jean Provencher)

Québec in 1735

The *Chemin du Roy* (*The King's Way*), on the north shore of the Saint Lawrence River between Quebec City and Montreal has just been inaugurated, it took four years to build. Thirteen bridges were needed. Some rivers were too wide for bridges, so a service of ferry-boat enables the travellers to cross the Batiscan, Saint-Maurice and des Prairies Rivers (1). Henceforth it is possible to ride in four days between the two towns with one horse only. This is a great boost to the development of the colony.

There are 300 bastards in the colony and many in and around Quebec City. According to the clergy, this is because soldiers are not allowed to marry.

In three years, Quebec launched forty-one ships of all sizes.

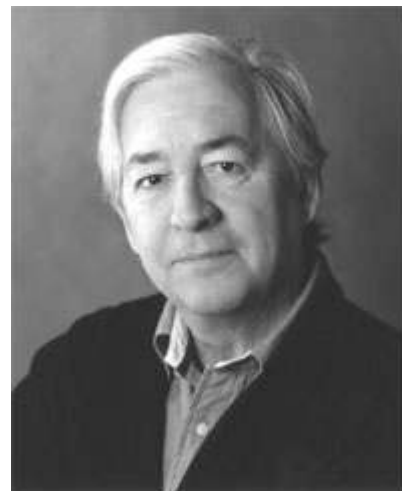
(Sources: *Quebec Popular History* by Jacques Lacoursière; *Québec Chronologie* by Jean Provencher)

Québec in 1736

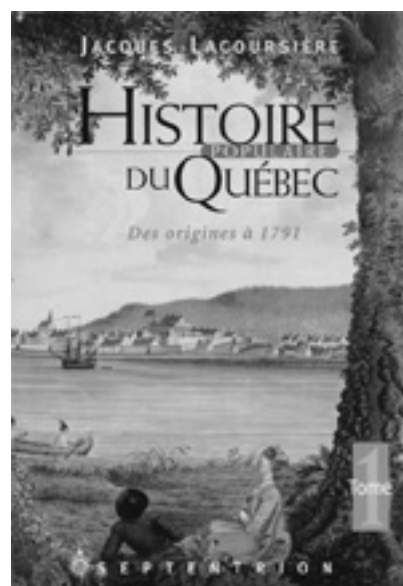
Wheat harvest is disastrous. According to Intendant Hocquart, the wheat rotted in the fields due to the September downpours.

The first Canadian *Récollet* priest, Joseph Denys, died on 25 January 1736.

Hocquart writes to his Minister that Canadians “are by nature unruly” and the lack of qualified manpower is crucial. But he adds: *The local carpenters have an extraordinary capacity to learn and improve themselves. The problem is that they are used to botch work – do imperfect jobs.*” The *Inten-*



Jacques Lacoursière, historian, and, below, the book quoted in the series published in *Le Soleil*, Quebec City daily.



dent asks for a qualified subcontractor to be sent as well as two or three good foremen “to train the carpenters here and teach them that it is not enough to work fast, because they do work hastily.

(1) Rivière des Prairies, called Back River in English; in fact it is the water of the Saint Lawrence that runs north of the island of Montreal, therefore at the back of the island!

Source for photo of Jacques Lacoursière: www.maisonsaint-gabriel.qc.ca

Source for photo of Jean Provencher: http://www.litterature.org/photofiche/Provencher_Jean.jpg



GENEALOGY / THE READERS' PAGE

The KFA computer genealogical database includes names of persons but without the names of their parents and/or spouses. Please help us complete our database by answering the questions below.

You are also invited to look up previous issues of Le Trésor where many more questions are listed in the Readers' Page but have yet to be answered. Results will be published in future bulletins. We are always grateful for any extra information about K/ descendants past and present.

Thank you very much for your help, it is really appreciated.

François Kirouac

Question 115

What is the name of the spouse of Hugues Keroack, son of Serge Keroack and Angèle Gemme?

Question 116

What are the names of the parents of Angèle Gemme, spouse of Hugues Keroack?

Question 117

What is the name of the mother of Martha Wilkinson, spouse of Robert Raymond Kerouac, son of Edmond Peter Kerouac and Carol Edwards?

Question 118

What are the names of the parents of Robert Giroux, spouse of Nicole Kirouac, daughter of Gérard Kirouac and Marie-Anne Pèlerin?

Question 119

What are the names of the parents of Christian Langlois, spouse of Nancie Kirouac, daughter of Robert Kirouac and Lise Précourt?

Question 120

What are the names of the parents

of Rebecca Dragmiller, spouse of Matthew Delorme Kirouac, son of Roger Laurent Kirouac and Constance Delorme?

Question 121

What are the names of the parents of Michaël Downey, spouse of Leslie Lynn Kirouac, daughter of Roger Laurent Kirouac and Constance Delorme?

Question 122

What are the names of the parents of Jean-François Bouchard, spouse of Julie Kérouack, daughter of Roger Kérouack and Gisèle Sauvageau?

Question 123

What are the names of the parents of Richard Auclair, spouse of Francine Blanchet, daughter of Jacqueline Kirouac and Charles-Henri Blanchet?

Question 124

What are the names of the parents of Manon Côté, spouse of Michel Blanchet, son of Jacqueline Kirouac and Charles-Henri Blanchet?

Question 125

What are the names of the parents of Renée Fréchette, spouse of Daniel Blanchet, son of Jacqueline Kirouac and Charles-Henri Blanchet?

Question 126

What are the names of the parents of Claire Frenette, spouse of Claude Blanchet, son of Jacqueline Kirouac and Charles-Henri Blanchet?

Question 127

What are the names of the parents of Johanne Durand, spouse of André Blanchet, son of Jacqueline Kirouac and Charles-Henri Blanchet?

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

The Editorial Team

Question 128

What are the names of the parents of Cynthia Leclerc, spouse of Louis Dumulon, son of François Dumulon and Raymonde Kirouac?

Question 129

What are the names of the parents of Brigitte Lapointe, spouse of Yves Dumulon, son of François Dumulon and Raymonde Kirouac?

Question 130

What is the name of the spouse (Linda) of Paul Blake, son of Paul Blake and Caroline Kerouac, sister of Jack Kerouac?

Question 131

What are the names of the parents of Délima Kirouac (02756), born in 1834, she died in 1920, and was the wife of Cléophas Viger?

Question 132

What are the names of the parents of Cléophas Viger, husband of Délima Kirouac (02756)?

Question 133

What are the names of the parents of Pascale Laroche, spouse of Pierre Kirouac, son of Donat Kirouac and Agnès Bélanger?

Question 134

What are the names of the parents of Chantal Côté, spouse of Laurent Kirouac (01979), son of Roméo Kirouac and Victoria Proulx?

Question 135

What are the names of the parents of Manon Verville, spouse of René Poulin, son of Jeanne D'Arc Kirouac and Alphonse Poulin?

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

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Kirouac Family Gathering Amos-Abitibi

August 3-4-5, 2007

The Organizing Committee awaits you with open arms and a warm welcome!

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