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Number 94

Le Trésor des Kérouac

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



Caroline Kérouac in Zagora, Morocco, during the race for the trophy *Roses des sables*.

Kérouac ✦ Kéroack ✦ Kirouac ✦ Kprouac ✦ Kérouack ✦ Kirouack

Le Trésor des Kirouac

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The President's Word



François Kirouac

First, I must ask you to forgive us for this belated last issue of 2008. A number of problems beyond our control have prevented us from producing and delivering this *Trésor* to you on time. In spite of this long delay, we hope you will enjoy the content of this number 94 and, rest assured that, through 2009 we will do our utmost to catch up. Thank you very much for your patience and comprehension.

In the present issue, you will meet a very dynamic young woman, ingenious, adventurous, and always ready for new adventures. Caroline Kirouac is a very nice person with a warm engaging personality. Nathalie K/ and Lucille K/ arranged to meet and interview her especially to write an article about her for you, our readers; hence the chance to get to know Caroline.

She is just turning thirty this year, but in spite of her young age, she has already accomplished much. We are planning an occasion for the KFA members to meet our "globe-trotter" in Quebec City. It will be the occasion for her to tell us about her past adventures and her future plans. We will keep you informed.

In the following pages, you will also read news from our ancestor Urbain-François Le Bihan. In fact, it is a short story written by Jean Kersco, alias of the author Alain Olmi.

Following his visit to Quebec City last summer to take part in our family gathering, he very kindly offered to contribute to *Le Trésor* by writing a text about our ancestor. The story could be labelled a short his-

torical novel. How true are the facts and how much is imagined, we may never know for sure but it is such an imaginative and plausible way to present historical facts to explain the reasons why he left Brittany in the first place!

Moving on to another completely different subject in a very different time period, in this issue, you will read about an event that was front page news in the first part of the 20th century not only in Canada but around the world: the British-built *Dirigible R-100*, the largest ever built dirigible balloon.

Negatives of photos taken then by Arthur Drolet, Blanche Kirouac's husband, thus Marie-Victorin's brother-in-law, were recently discovered and inspired me to tell you about this spectacular event that, according to some, attracted media coverage as extensive as that given to Expo '67, Montreal's 1967 International Exhibition. I hope you will enjoy this flash-back to 1930.

Once more, this recent discovery shows the importance of preserving our photographic heritage. I cannot help but stress this point again. For the last few years, we have mentioned, within the pages of *Le Trésor*, the importance to save and preserve our K/rouac family photographic heritage. Accordingly, we contacted Mrs Céline Drolet, Blanche Kirouac-Drolet's granddaughter, and asked her to give us access to the treasure trove of negatives that her father, Maurice, had preciously accumulated during his lifetime. Oh, the fabulous discoveries in store!

If you have old photos, you may not realize how precious they are. Once again may we ask you to, please, scan those unknown treasures, or have someone scan them for you. It would enable you to share them with the KFA members and you would be sure not to lose them through some unfortunate event like flood or fire. And remember that scanning them will also enable you to make copies, as beautiful, and even more so, than the originals, in order to share them with your relatives.

Finally, one word about renewing your membership to our Association, thank you very much if you have already done so, but, please note that the next issue of *Le Trésor* (number 95) will only be sent to those who will have renewed their subscription for 2009.

We hope very much that you will continue to support your Family Association by renewing your membership.

Enjoy reading this *TRÉSOR* number 94!



BRIEFLY SPEAKING

25th Anniversary of the Passing of Yves Thériault

Twenty-five years ago, the famous Quebec writer, Yves Thériault, passed away. To mark the occasion the *Grande bibliothèque* of Montreal (the official provincial library) mounted an exhibition entitled: *Yves Thériault: le pari de l'écriture*. (=YT and the writing challenge). The link with the Kirouacs is through his wife, Germaine Blanchet, daughter of Emmanuel Blanchet and Marie-Rose Émérentienne Kirouac (AFK-00841). The exhibition was from 23 September 2008 until 15 January 2009.

Yves Thériault was born in Quebec City on 27 November 1915 and died in Joliette on 22 October 1983. Before he could afford to live only from his writing, he held various jobs: truck driver, traveling salesman, director of publicity in a war factory, and radio announcer. Before using his own name, he used three aliases: Benoît Tessier, Guy Verchères and Domino Noir. In 1979, for his life's work, he received the prestigious award **Prix Athanase-David** (Prestigious literary award, created in 1922, presented annually by the Quebec government to honour the body of works of an artist accompanied by a \$30,000 grant).

Prix Marie-Victorin, annual award

In November 2008, the Quebec Government granted the Prix Marie-Victorin to Dr André Charrette, Professor at the Department of Chemistry, Montreal University. This annual award comes with a silver medal designed by a Quebec artist and a \$30,000 grant. It is the highest Quebec distinction for pure and applied sciences. Professor Charrette is Canada Research Chair in Stereoselective, Synthesis of Bioactive Molecules, and Industrial Chair in Stereoselective Drug Synthesis, NSERC/Merck Frosst/Boehringer Ingelheim. In 2002, he received the Commemorative Rutherford Medal. In 2007, he was inducted into the Canadian Royal Society. He and his team carried out synthesis of various pharmaceutical products including anti-cancer, antiHIV agents or immuno-suppressors.

For a complete list of his publications, awards and decorations, you may visit his web site at: <http://charette.org.umontreal.ca/resume/cveng.html>.

Reaction to the DVD of *La Quête*, the TV program produced by TFO

Through our Family Association, Brothers of the Christian Schools, Marie-Victorin's religious Order, were given the

opportunity to see the program *La Quête* about our cousin Conrad Kirouac. After watching the program, Brother André sent us the following comments:

Mr. Bornais,

About fifty Brothers watched the DVD with one question in mind: is it a good tool for people to learn about Marie-Victorin?

The answer to that question is affirmative..

** The presentation is innovative and our curiosity was aroused right from the start...*

** The actors were natural and very pleasant to watch...*

** The action was fast and one's interest sustained throughout...*

** The visit to the quarry and to the Montreal Botanical Garden were enlightening...*

** At the end, the discovery of the ancestor comes as a grand finale...*

Some brothers, including a 94-year old one, would have liked to see a boy and a girl team instead of two boys . . . No macho among our group!

Congratulations to the authors of the DVD!

When we were young, we did not have such wonderful technical teaching tools...

Brother André, F.E.C.

The Odyssey of the Flore laurentienne

Please note that Mrs Lucie Jasmin's next talk: *L'Odyssée de la Flore laurentienne*, will be on 17 March 2009 at the Marie-Victorin Library in l'Ancienne-Lorette.

This lecture will also be given at the presbytery in Saint-Nicolas, on the south shore, near Lévis, on 14 May 2009. Entrance fee: \$5. Reservation needed. By phoning: 418- 831-5257.

All Kirouacs from the Greater Quebec and Lévis areas are invited.

Creation of a Pressure Group: **SOS Fernand Seguin**

Given that we are talking about Brother Marie-Victorin, let's mention that in 1928, he identified a rare plant in Châteauguay, **Aubépine ergot-de-coq**. In July 2008, a pressure group inaugurated a web-site called **SOS Fernand Seguin**, its mission being to protect a territory within the green belt surrounding Châteauguay-Léry area adjacent to the *Fernand*

Seguin Ecological Centre. According to its members, this territory is a natural area sheltering a large variety of birds as well as many rare plants.

The pressure group has the support of a number of scientists, including the well-known astro-physician, Hubert Reeves. Anyone wishing to add their support can go on-line and sign the petition at: www.sos-fernand-seguin

New Homage for H  l  ne Kirouac of Warwick

On 4 January 2009, over 130 persons assembled in the great hall at the *Warwick Golf Club* to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the *Centre d'Entraide Contact*.

The organizers use the occasion to underline the business qualities of the four members making up the first committee started the organization in March 1983: Pierre Rivard, **H  l  ne Kirouac**, Rolande Chaput and Pierrette Duclos. Each volunteer was presented with a clock as a token of gratitude.

The Federal Member of Parliament and the Provincial Deputy were present as well as many representatives of various community organizations.

Genevi  ve K  rouac in the news again

On 23 and 24 January 2009, Genevi  ve K  rouac and her partner, Benjamin Ricard, took part in the musical comedy **Swing Station**, presented at *L'Imp  rial* Theatre in Quebec City.

Andr   Bouchard, journalist with *Impact Campus*, a Laval University independent student newspaper, wrote about the evening: "Four musicians, some fifteen dancers and one singer all contributed to make this a memorable show. The musicians were talented, fresh and funny. The dancers were colourful, dramatic and amazing. This remarkable trip back to the silent movie era was made possible thanks to Genevi  ve K  rouac. Videos of Chaplin's epoch were shown on screen, ingeniously mixed with the artists' performances, in short, a high quality show."

Jack Kerouac always in the news

In the present *Tr  sor*, you will read a press release dated 15 November 2008 about a rendezvous with the *Beat Generation* at the *Largo Resto-Club* in Quebec City on three evenings: 18, 19, 20 November 2008.

Our Family Association was officially present. On 18 November, the opening night, our secretary, Michel Bormais, spoke about Jack Kerouac's family and used the opportunity to talk about Jan Kerouac's existence.

The following evening, Nathalie, Lucille, and C  line represented the KFA. This time, Nathalie spoke and welcomed Jack's fans.

Grandmother once more

On 2 January 2009, Marie Kirouac became a grandmother for the fourth time. Her daughter, V  ronique Bergeron, gave birth to a girl, Rosalie. Congratulations to the happy parents: Guy and V  ronique.

Festival of Literature in Quebec City

Quebec City will have its festival of literature starting in 2009. The city will put forward \$750,000 over three years to start the new festival called: *L'ann  e litt  raire*. Every year, the project will highlight a literary personality of international standing and fame like Jack Kerouac, Anne H  bert or Fred Vargas. For the first year, the organization is thinking of Borges.

Did you know that ...

In the *Des Rivi  res* area of Quebec City, a street presently known as *Rue des Gravi  rs* used to be called *Rue Kirouac* (street)?

It had been named in honour of Doctor Charlie (Charles-Antoine) Kirouac (AFK 00594) who was a medical doctor overseas during the Second World War and eventually settled in the Magdalen Islands and later in Charlesbourg.

In 1986, the city changed the name 'Kirouac' for 'des Gravi  rs'.

If the KFA had been aware of that then, undoubtedly our Association would have made pressure to stop the name change.

Did you know that ...

There is a park named in honour of Maurice Kirouac in the town of M  tabetchouan in the Lake Saint-Jean region?

Maurice was the very first KFA regional representative for the Saguenay-Lake-Saint-Jean region. He was the brother of Sarto, the first KFA treasurer from 1978 until 1990 and the uncle of Ren  , our present treasurer. He passed away in Chicoutimi in 1991.

Maurice also founded the Lac-Saint-Jean Musical Camp and was its President from 1966 until 1984. One of the Musical Camp pavilion is named in his honour. On 30 September 1944, he married Antoinette St-Pierre in Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard, L'Islet County.



Meeting Caroline Kirouac

*Interviewed by Nathalie and
Lucille Kirouac*

Caroline and Audrey's motto:

"It is not how long you live and breathe but how many breath-taking moments you live."

Caroline Kirouac has conquered the Moroccan desert, this is (the translation of) the title of an article published in *L'Oie Blanche*, the regional newspaper of the Montmagny-l'Islet region, on the first of November 2008. That was a well deserved way to mark the second place achieved by the team of Caroline Kirouac (AFK 02075) and Audrey Bélanger, during the eighth edition of the *Trophée Roses des Sables* (i.e. Sand Rose Trophy) a women's only race in the Moroccan desert that took place from 9 to 19 October 2008.

This young woman's odyssey is unusual, to say the least, and we are delighted to introduce her to you, our readers.

Before taking part in the race *Trophée Roses des Sables*, Caroline, soon to turn thirty, took part in many adventures here in Canada and abroad. Caroline has made the most of all her contacts everywhere; learning about various peoples' particularities and differences; her experiences are many and varied. However, during our interview she was natural, down-to-earth and laughed spontaneously when sharing with us stories that others might consider heroic.



Caroline, in Bordeaux, on departure day

TROPHÉE ROSES DES SABLES

Created in France, this important and now famous desert race for women only is a competition for two-woman's-team: a pilot and a co-pilot, supplied with only a map, a road book, and a compass. Driving a Toyota 4 X 4 through the immense Moroccan desert, riding the endless dunes, they must cover each daily stage respecting the control points. Of the 163 two-woman's teams taking part in the 2008 desert race, 60% were from Quebec. The winning team was from Montreal and this was their second desert race.

The *Trophée Roses des Sables* is more than a road rally as the participants must supply 50 kg (about 110 lbs), or the equivalent, in school supply and hygienic products for the desert children. This humanitar-

ian aid requires a good deal of preparation. Therefore, to take part in the race, not only do they have to raise \$20,000, which is a lot of money, but they also need to find sponsors for the products and pay for the shipping of the extra 50 kg of goods.

WHO IS CAROLINE KIROUAC?

Caroline was born in Saint-Eugène-de-L'Islet but now lives in Rimouski. She is the daughter of Conrad Kirouac (AFK 02073), and Suzanne St-Pierre-Kirouac. She has an older sister, Marie-Ève, and a younger brother, Mathieu. She is the niece of Raymonde Kérouac-Harvey, the author of *L'Album* and a KFA founding member.

It seems that through her genetic baggage she has inherited a resemblance to our Ancestor and other well-known members of the Kirouac clan. Idleness is not in her bag, and never was either; at a very young age she started baby-sitting,

Photo : Collection Caroline Kirouac

then went bean-picking, also worked as a waitress and a chamber-maid; to mention a few of her job experiences.

STUDIES

After graduating from the Bon-Pasteur High School in L'Islet-sur-Mer, and because she loved animals, she took up animal health and husbandry studies.

But she could not stand still for very long and one day she wrote in her diary: *26 May, departure.* Where to? She did not know then. But at the end of her second year, she yearned to discover Western Canada. Who would go with her? Three girlfriends joined her; they rented a car and drove across Canada all the way to Fairmont Hot Springs in British Columbia. Their purpose: learn English.

After the last session in animal health studies, students have to do an internship and have to choose a place to do it. Having heard about the possibility of getting such training abroad, Caroline decided to inquire. With one, then with two other girl friends, planning and organizing the internship at the Veterinary Hospital in Lyon, began. Lyon was chosen because there the most diffi-



Handing out gifts to the desert children, Caroline with a little girl proudly holding her new schoolbag and toys. Caroline said this was one of the most moving experiences of the desert race.

cult cases of (animal) orthopaedic surgery were being treated. Everything finally worked out and that year, four students left for a three-week unforgettable experience in France.

In 2000 this was a first but, since then, it has become normal for students studying animal health at the La Pocatière College to choose this

special internship in Lyon.

Caroline's professional life

Because of her professional training she landed work in a lab carrying out research on animals. It did not agree very well with her who had been attracted to working with animals because she loves them so much. So, after a short while, she could not take it anymore and quit her job.

Following this rather unsettling experience, Caroline needed time to think. So, what better than traveling? Tempted to discover Asia, she went to Thailand for three months. There she certainly found a different world and diverse people. Then back home, she went to Abitibi to plant trees; another good way to keep thinking while working. And Caroline then decided to go back to school.

Next challenge: a teaching degree

True to herself, she enrolled in biol-



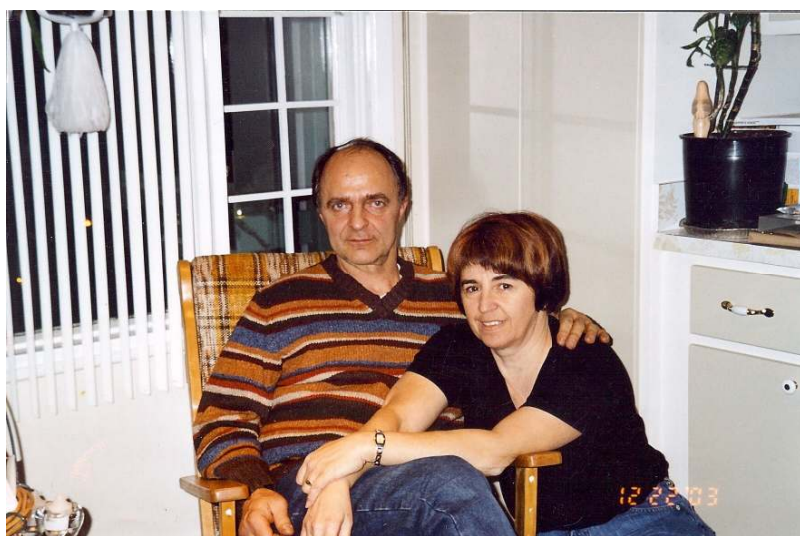
In Bordeaux on departure day, Caroline and Audrey, her team mate





Collection : Caroline Kirouac

Caroline's mother, Suzanne, her brother, Mathieu, and sister, Marie-Ève



Collection : Caroline Kirouac

Caroline's parents: Conrad Kérueac and Suzanne St-Pierre

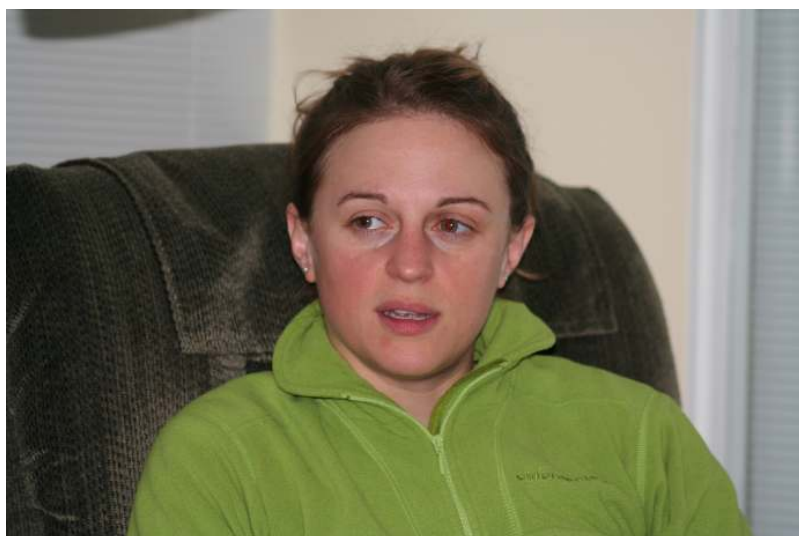


Photo : François Kirouac

Caroline Kirouac during the interview with Nathalie Kirouac in December 2008

ogy and later switched to a bachelor's teaching degree in sciences at the Quebec University in Rimouski (UQR). But, did you know that the Canadian Naval Reserve is in Rimouski? She discovered it and there was a new opportunity for Caroline who decided to try her luck and was accepted. Training as a recruit lasted through her university studies and, among many things, took her to England. Unfortunately it was not quite the right time because in 2005, London was under constant terrorist threats; therefore, after only six months working in a very British *pub*, she left, but, nevertheless, she completed her one-year European stay by visiting various countries on the continent.

She is now teaching sciences at high school level and is a Naval Officer. She obtained her diploma from the Canadian Naval Reserve and is attached to NCSM D'IBERVILLE, on which she travels most summers. So far she has visited: Victoria, B.C., Alaska, and other American states, the Maritimes, etc. One year she was chosen to represent Canada at a gathering of NATO members in Turkey.

It is no wonder then that she was attracted to the challenge of the *Trophée Roses des Sables*. For Caroline, it was a natural choice of adventure.

Roses des Sables: adventure on desert road!

Caroline heard about this important international competition on television and decided to take part. So she needed a partner, an accomplice, a co-pilot . . . Who better than her friend, Audrey Bélanger, to share this great challenge with her. Audrey gladly accepted. As mentioned before the *Trophée Roses des Sables* is more than a road rally because of the humanitarian aid it provides to children of the desert.

First of all, they started raising the

Genealogy of Caroline Kirouac

I

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

Cap Saint-Ignace
22 October 1732

Louise Bernier
(1712-1802)

II

Simon-Alexandre Keroack
dit breton
1732-1812

L'Islet-sur-Mer
15 June 1758

Élisabeth Chalifour
(1739-1814)

III

Simon-Alexandre Keroack
dit breton
(1760-1823)

Cap Saint-Ignace
18 November 1782

Marie-Ursule Guimont
(1765-1820)

IV

Simon-Alexandre Keroack
dit Breton
(1783-1871)

L'Islet-sur-Mer
4 November 1806

Constance Cloutier
(1789-1843)

V

Louis Damase Kérouack
(1826-1873)

L'Islet-sur-Mer
24 October 1848

Anastasie Caron
(1828-1901)

VI

Louis Amédée Kérouack
(1849-1938)

L'Islet-sur-Mer
25 January 1870

Marie Catherine Gamache
(1850-1916)

VII

Louis René Kérouack
(1883-1964)

Saint-Eugène-de-L'Islet
16 April 1912

Délia Caron
(1891-1968)

VIII

Louis Georges Kérouac
(1913-1992)

Saint-Eugène-de-L'Islet
22 June 1936

Lydia Cloutier
(1914-1999)

IX

Conrad Kérouac
(1949-)

Saint-Eugène-de-L'Islet
25 October 1975

Suzanne St-Pierre
(1953-)

X

Caroline Kirouac
(1979-)

François Kirouac 3 February 2009





Caroline, new recruit in the Canadian Army in the summer 2002, during an obstacle course race (Photo: collection Caroline Kirouac).

\$20,000 needed to take part and the 50 kg of products for the desert children. Caroline and Audrey chose to bring only 25 kg of goods and the cash equivalent for the difference. According to Caroline, preparation including, finding sponsors, money, and goods, was a challenge almost greater than the race itself.

The adventure actually began in France. The two young travellers went to Nantes (French port on the Atlantic) to pick up the 4 X 4 they would drive through the desert. The organizers checked vehicles and teams and supplied them with a road map. There were 163 teams, and 60% were from Quebec. The challenge was to complete the five stages of the rally with the lowest possible mileage and the race is in the desert! Quite a mission! Caroline admits that she had no mechanical knowledge. Changing tires and car maintenance were not part of her technical aptitudes. However, her sense of direction, her competence at map and compass reading, her concentration and her excellent analytic mind were of great help to complete the undertaking. And the

two friends fully trusted each other. Caroline and Audrey, who had travelled together before, were optimistic and very professional!

Everything and everyone was ready but, due to bad weather, the beginning of the race was delayed. A storm raging in the strait of Gibraltar prevented the crossing from Spain to Morocco. According to the organizers, the 2008 race turned out to be the most difficult ever because of storms and heavy rainfalls before and during the race. The 'oueds'

that is desert seasonal rivers were raging out of their normal beds.

Though delayed for a few days, Caroline and Audrey started off on their course. They finished sixth at the end of the first stage. Not bad for beginners in such a tough desert race. And they finished second at the end of the second stage . . . They could hardly believe it and then were very optimistic for the next stages! Caroline and Audrey happily and eagerly went on looking forward to the next days' challenges! They were the perfect team for the task!

At one point during the race, Caroline and Audrey saw other teams take a certain direction. However, after Caroline studied the map, she and her friend realized that the others were going the wrong way. So they decided to follow their instinct that was taking them in a very different direction. Their intuition proved right! Audrey never doubted Caroline's decisions when it came to the direction to take during the rally.

Against all expectations, they maintained second position at the end of every day, right to the end of the race! What a feat! Who could have foreseen this? Caroline could hardly



Summer 2006, on board the NCSM SHAWINIGAN, Caroline and Jenn Martin, another student, after receiving their certificate from the Canadian Navy.

believe it herself. They finished second and only missed finishing first by a mere four kilometres.

Rich experience

“What did you learn about yourself during the race?” To this question, Caroline answered that, during the race, she developed her self-confidence as well as to trust others. Their close cooperation was an important factor in their results. On top of her tenacity, determination, leadership and open-mindedness, Caroline confides that through the race she followed her instinct. Her investigative mind and logic were also of prime importance in such difficult conditions. Without their natural qualities and complicity, the result of the *Roses des Sables* expedition might have been very different.

Always persevere, always

Caroline is deeply touched to see how people are so proud of what she achieved. She has received many beautiful testimonies and they mean a great deal to her. During the rally, people from all over Quebec and around the world could follow the race on Internet, on her *blog*. She still regularly receives congratulations from her former students and, every time, she is happily surprised. Caroline Kirouac is definitely a role-model for young people, an example to others, being a living proof that it is possible to accomplish one's dreams.

Preparing for more travels

Caroline's head is bursting with new projects! She is weighing out the prospect of teaching in Africa; one of her many dreams. Impossible is not a word in her vocabulary. When considering future projects, apprehension or fear do not interfere. She is determined and confident, she will be 'on the road' for many more years guided by her thirst for learning and serving ...



The most stressful moment of the race, Caroline says: in the desert, departure of the first stage: speed through the dunes!



Happy to be back in Saint-Eugène! At Caroline's parents' home with Audrey, proudly showing off their trophy *Roses des sables* (Photo: collection Caroline Kirouac)

Photo: collection Caroline Kirouac





The R-100's Visit to Canada in 1930

by François Kirouac

On 1st August 1930, the British dirigible R-100, one of the technological marvels of the early twentieth century, arrived from England and anchored to a 63-meter high mooring mast, built especially at St. Hubert's new airport, on the south shore across the River from Montreal.

Arthur Drolet, Blanche Kirouac's husband and Brother Marie-Victorin's brother-in-law, was one of 40,000 people who crowded the St. Hubert air field on that memorable day. Not only did he see the incredible flying machine but he also took many photographs of the aerostat later to be labelled the flying

Titanic (9). Arthur Drolet's granddaughter, Céline, most kindly lent us the negatives of the photos her grandfather took on that memorable day. They are part of an important collection of photos and negatives that Céline's father, Maurice, kept preciously and that the KFA eventually hopes to draw on.

Our secretary, Michel Bornais, scanned the negatives to produce photos to be used in *Le Trésor* to illustrate the present article depicting one of the major events in Canada during the last century. To better understand the importance of this transatlantic voyage of the R-100 Dirigible and why so many people wanted to be at St. Hubert airport on 1st August 1930, it is im-

portant to remember that until then, only one balloon, the R-34, had crossed the ocean; in July 1919 it flew from England to the United States. At the time, and through the first half of the 20th century, all travelling between Europe and America was by ship. Many people

(1) Michel Pratt: *The R-100 at the St. Hubert Airport in 1930*. "The especially built mooring mast had a diameter of twenty-one meters, and was sixty-three meters high. A fourteen-passenger elevator was installed inside the mast and reached a height of forty-six meters. People had to walk up the rest of the way. The mast's main gallery was at fifty-two meters where the dirigible gangway was anchored. In 1938, the mast deemed dangerous to the traffic and totally useless was demolished. Built at a cost of one million dollars, it was used only once."

believed that these majestic dirigible balloons would, one day, be the only way to cross the Atlantic by air for passengers and goods.

The *Société historique du Marigot* from Longueuil (Quebec) recounts the coming to Canada of the R-100 on the website of the Virtual Museum of Canada: (<http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/English/indexFT.html>) “Few events in the history of Quebec had greater media coverage than the coming of the R-100 Dirigible in 1930. Not only the media coverage was exceptional but, as *La Bolduc* said in one of her songs: “Everybody is talking about the R-100”. Within the region of the Montérégie, the R-100 flight was the greatest tourist event ever. Provincially it was just as prestigious as *Expo '67*, the Montreal International Exhibition in 1967.”

“Technologically speaking, the challenge was such as to raise world-wide interest. It was a most impressive spectacle, a technological exploit and a major media event.” Jean-Yves Dubois⁽²⁾, wrote at the time that the whole population got so excited, the enthusiasm was almost hysterical. “In Montreal, welcoming posters adorned shop windows and fences throughout the city. The twenty-three story Sun Life building, still under construction (then the largest building in the British Commonwealth, translator’s note), displayed on its front a giant forty-six-by-nine-meter sign displaying (in English): *WELCOME R-100 TO CANADA*. ”

The R-100, and its twin the R-101, were prototypes built by the British government in the middle of the 1920s. Those two dirigible airships incorporated the latest technological innovations and, it was said that, as for the passengers’ luxury comfort, it equalled the biggest ocean liners. No project as huge as these airships had ever been achieved before. The famous *Hindenburg*, under construction at the time would be com-

pleted only in 1936 and its first transatlantic voyage ended in catastrophic demise on 6 May 1937 in New Jersey.

The R-100 was 216 metres long⁽³⁾ and almost 41 metres in diameter, its volume was over 155,000 cubic metres⁽⁴⁾. It could reach a speed of 96 kilometres per hour. Rénald Fortier⁽⁵⁾ wrote that in the airship: “above the space reserved for the crew, one hundred passengers enjoyed two levels on which there were fourteen twin-berth cabins and

eighteen four-berth cabins. On the lower deck, there was a dining room with a seating capacity of fifty-six, by far the largest room aboard. On either side, there were

(2) *Once upon a time . . . the R-100 or the story of the dirigible moored in St. Hubert in 1930*, by Jean-Yves Dubois, St. Hubert Historical Society, 1992.

(3) *The R-100 at St. Hubert Airport in 1930* by Michel Pratt.

(4) Dirigible, R-100 : <http://dirigeables.free.fr/R100.htm>

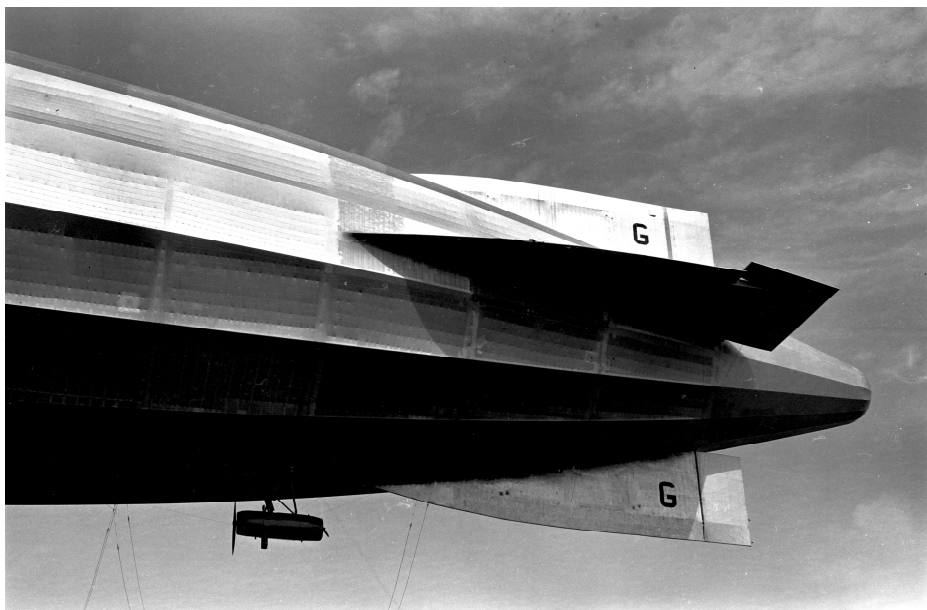


Photograph: Arthur Drolet



Photograph: Arthur Drolet





cabins and a corridor to the observation deck where the passengers could enjoy the panorama below. The upper deck included a mezzanine overlooking the dining room. On either side, there were more cabins, a corridor and a smaller observation deck. A double staircase linked the two levels reserved for the passengers. A spacious gondola, attached under the hull, underneath the space reserved for the crew, offered the officers a spectacular view. Three other nacelles for the motors were located under the hull, behind the navigators' gondola. The R-100 was powered by six 700 h. p. Rolls-Royce Condor Motors, built of tubular membranes in a semi-flexible framework⁽⁸⁾.

The drifters and rudders were at the back, at the opposite end of the airship. The drifters were fixed, to stabilize the airship and the rudders. The rudders, used to steer were moveable. The inner structure of these control features were identical to that of the hull and were also covered with waterproof material.

The two British built airships R-100 and R-101 were meant to establish fast air-link between the many

countries of the vast British Empire (on which the sun never set). The R-100 would link Great Britain and Canada, and the R-101, Great Britain and India.

During the night of July 28 to 29, 1930, the R-100 left Cardington in England. After flying 78 hours and 48 minutes, it arrived in St. Hubert on August 1st, and anchored on the mooring mast, at five thirty a.m.⁽⁵⁾ To mark the event, the municipal and governmental authorities greeted the crew at the airport. Provincial and Federal Ministers, Members of Parliament and numerous other personalities, including the Mayor of Montreal, Mr. Camilien Houde, made speeches at the official reception.

Rénald Fortier also writes⁽⁶⁾, "Because over 600,000 visitors were expected to see the R-100, the National Railroads built extra railroad tracks to St. Hubert; newspapers published strict instructions for those travelling by car; special flights were scheduled to and from St. Hubert, a military camp was set up to accommodate six-hundred troops whose responsibility was to control crowds and traffic. As the

media coverage expected was to be the biggest ever in the country, Canadian National Railway (CNR) and Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) and other groups set up observation stations in various locations in Quebec City and Montreal. Following strong representations from the newspapers and provincial MPs, it was agreed that all news report would be bilingual."

Jean-Yves Dubois⁽²⁾ adds: "From downtown Montreal's Guy Train Stations, every fifteen minutes, a special CNR train left for St. Hubert. Hundreds of cars also took to the road to go directly to the south shore suburb; so during that sunny Saturday, in all, around 150,000 peoples travelled to the airport by train and around 30,000 drove." St. Hubert Airport had suddenly become a commercial fair where publicity boards had grown like mushrooms. It is estimated that one million people saw the R-100 and visited the St. Hubert airport installation.

Rénald Fortier also notes⁽⁶⁾: "When visiting the airship, it was most important to avoid all fire hazards. Due to the presence of certain acids and gases, every person due to be admitted inside the dirigible, when reaching the foot of the mooring mast, had to take off their shoes and put on some special shoes with rubber soles. The alcove where the visitors shoes were left soon looked like a shoe shop turned upside down." The smallest spark, close to hydrogen, would have been catastrophic.

⁽⁵⁾ Techno-Science.net (English website): <http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/Collection/NM97-12-2-4-1999E.pdf>

⁽⁶⁾ Photo Collection, *The R-100 in Canada*; by Réndal Fortier, Curator of Aviation History at the National Aviation Museum, 1999. English Web site: http://www.aviation.technomuses.ca/assets/pdf/e_R100.pdf. A twenty-four page album of photos and text by Réndal Fortier - perfect for a virtual visit of the R-100



Another security measure was to admit only ten people at a time. In addition, in order to enter into the dirigible, each visitor climbed a few wooden steps, and then had to jump over a two-foot wide space between the platform and the airship entrance. Mayor Camilien Houde, being short and plump, hesitated in front of the gap claiming his legs were too short to jump! The guards smiled at his comment and gladly offered to help him ... It is estimated that over 3,000 personalities visited this magnificent flying hotel during its stop over in Canada.

Finally, here is another comment that, nowadays, would sound very strange. Jean-Yves Dubois⁽²⁾ writes: "Admission on board the dirigible was strictly forbidden to women! And one more interesting info: "During a civic banquet at the Windsor Hotel in Montreal, British

Officers of the R-100 all made speeches in French!"

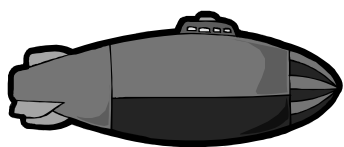
Before reaching St. Hubert, the R-100 was seen by people in Quebec City when it flew over the Dufferin Terrace and the Château Frontenac Hotel. But "In the vicinity of Trois-Rivières, the dirigible flew through a violent storm (9). Airplanes dispatched to meet with the airship spotted tears in the outside surfaces. Repairs were done by Canadian Vickers of Montreal." All along the St. Lawrence River people were able to admire the R-100 as it flew by. The R-100 Canadian flying schedule was slightly curtailed because of the damages that were repaired in St. Hubert.

The R-100 flew over Toronto during the week of 11 August where huge traffic jams were reported. (7)

However, during the flight to Toronto, a gear train broke up and the R-100 lost one of its propellers which fell into the St. Lawrence River. The return flight to England was done with five engines instead of six. The R-100 left Canada and arrived in Cardington, England, on 16 August 1930 at 11:06 a.m. The return trip took 21 hours less than the in-coming voyage. The R-100 covered 4800 km in 57 hours and 56 minutes. It was the twelfth and fastest crossing of the Atlantic by an airship. Once 'home' it was manhandled into a shed and never flew again. For more info and photos, on the web: <http://www.nevilshute.org/PhotoLine/PLD-1921-1930/pl-1921-1930-07.php>.

After the fatal accident of the R-

101, in Allonne, France, on 5 October 1930, killing 48 persons out of 54 passengers, the British dream of the great dirigible airships died. The Government in London decided to end the programme and the R-100 was deflated in December 1930. Its structure was hung in a hangar and was finally taken apart between November 1931 and February 1932. The R-100 only crossed the Atlantic once ⁽⁵⁾, its Canadian tour was a resounding success.



(7) Some English info from: *Quebec Heritage News*, July 2004, Vol. 2, number 11, page 7, as part of a special section on Early Aviation in Canada, pages 6 to 23. (Translator's note and source)

(8) Source: <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,732404,00.html>

(9) Flying *Titanic*: see <http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/Collection/NM97-12-2-4-1999E.pdf> - story and photos by Rénald Fortier. Basically neither R-100 nor R-101 were ready to fly and Disaster struck the R-101.

Also: <http://www.aht.ndirect.co.uk/airships/imperial/> - "After her initial test flights, by October 1930, she was ready to leave for India and the Imperial Conference. With the Secretary of State for Air, Lord Thompson of Cardington and most of the design team, she left on the night of 4th October. It was at 2:09 am on the morning of the 5th that the R101 struck the ground near Beauvais, France. The project was reviewed following the loss of the R101 as most of the design team, the leading government sponsor, Lord Thompson of Cardington, and some of the most experienced airship crews died in the crash."

Translated and adapted by Marie Lussier Timperley for Le Trésor des K/, number 94, December 2008.

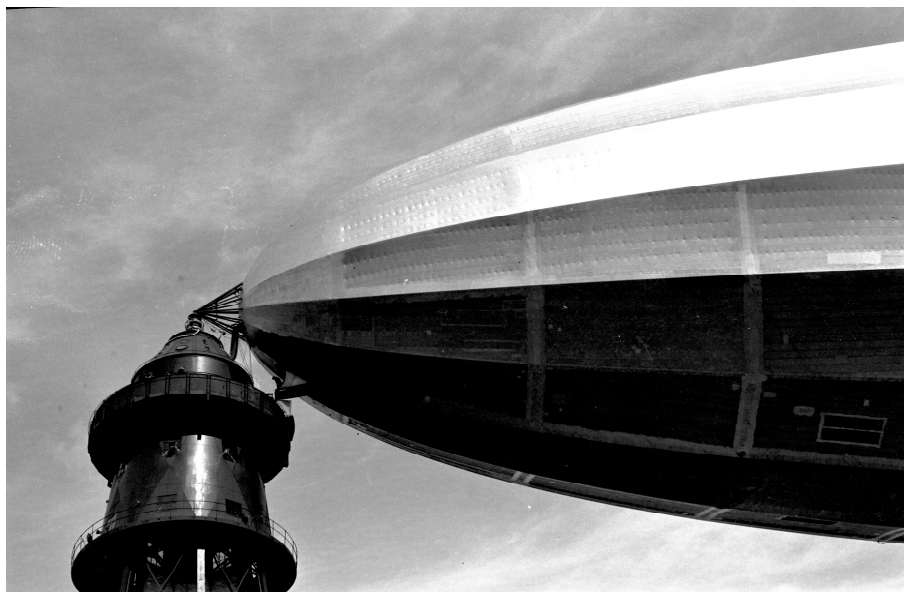


Photo: Arthur Drolet



Photo: Arthur Drolet

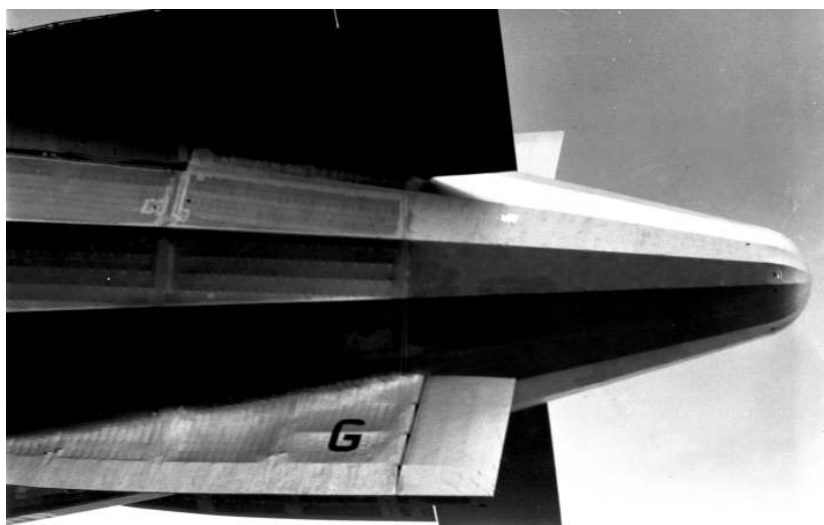


Photo: Arthur Drolet

The visit of the British dirigible wowed people like never before. Songs, in French and in English, were written about it. Among those one was by the famous La Bolduc, Mrs. Édouard Bolduc, born Mary Rose-Anna Travers. During the peak of her popularity in the 1930s, she was known as the Queen of Canadian Folksingers. Bolduc, of Irish descent, is often considered to be Quebec's first singer/songwriter. Her style combined the traditional folk music of Ireland and Quebec, usually in upbeat, comedic songs (Wikipedia). Another song was by Arthur Lapierre, popular comedian, singer/songwriter, composer and teacher, born around 1888, he died after 1947. In their songs, both authors made fun of people's excitement about the flying machine that everyone wants to see. Other songs were also written in English.



La Bolduc
(1894-1941)

Photos : Library and Archives of Canada



Arthur Lapierre
(about 1888-????)

It is possible to listen to the following French songs on the web site of Canada's Library and Archives, Virtual Gramophone !

La Bolduc's song: Toujours L'R-100

http://amicus.collectionscanada.ca/gramophone-bin/Main/ItemDisplay?l=0&l_ef_l=-1&v=1&lvl=1&coll=24&itm=31393959

Arthur Lapierre's song: C'est l'R-100

http://amicus.collectionscanada.ca/gramophone-bin/Main/ItemDisplay?l=0&l_ef_l=-1&v=1&lvl=1&coll=24&itm=31393953

At <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEdp4Kq7Fo8>, you can watch a video while the Canadian dance band Harold Leonard and his Red Jackets perform a tribute to the dirigible, the R-100, in English from 1930.

The lyrics, as transcribed by Greg Kyrrouac, are:

R one-hundred, R hundred
Everyone awaited your arrival
R one-hundred, our one-hundred
Joyfully we praise your safe survival.

Here's to the R hundred
To Booth and his gallant crew
Here's to the mightiest monarch
That o'er the oceans flew.

R hundred to your glory
Hear the world a welcome roar
R hundred in the spirit
We are with you as you soar
R hundred of your glory history tells forevermore.

Other Internet sites on the subject that were used in the editing of this text

http://www.histoirequebec.qc.ca/publicat/vol6num1/v6n1_1r1.htm

<http://www.museevirtuel.ca/CommunityMemories/ADZW/000a/Exhibits/Francais/index.html>

<http://www.aerovision.org/doku.php?id=en:r-100>

http://www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/jeunesse/1920_1939.htm

<http://www.techno-science.net/?onglet=glossaire&definition=11950>

http://www.histoirequebec.qc.ca/publicat/vol7num3/v7n3_8sh.htm



News from Urbain-François Le Bihan

A historical short story by Jean Kersco

As I walked along the Plage Moulin de la Rive, the nearest beach to Lanmeur, I noticed a small pile of seaweed left there by the low tide. As it is an excellent garden fertilizer, I decided to pick it up, but when I did, I heard a "cling" as it touched a pebble. I lifted the hair-like weeds and found a bottle. An odd shaped one, obviously a very ancient one; it was opaque and covered with aggregates. A bottle in the sea! Never before had I found one. So I picked it up. Free from its casing the bottle seemed empty, except for some paper. I broke the bottle rather than attempt to sever its wax seal, and, oh surprise, some ten sheets of paper covered with paled writing came out of their wrapping. The amazing date, 1736, and the startling location, the St. Lawrence River, the incredible name, Urbain-François Le Bihan. So, for centuries, the bottle had been sailing the ocean to finally land in the young man's birthplace, just like an eel. Having attended the 30th anniversary gathering of the Kirouac Family Association last August, I thought that you would be interested to know what your ancestor wrote. So here it is:

Yours truly, Jean Kersco

I am Urbain-François Le Bihan. In Canada, I am known as Alexandre de Kerouac because I started a new life there not knowing whether I would ever go back (to Brittany). It was also a way to raise my family's standing and honour. Today, I am on a boat, ravaged by fever, going back to Brittany to settle my mother's estate as I learned of her passing a month ago when the St. Lawrence was still frozen.

I have been told that my great-

grandfather Auffroy, born in Lanmeur, used to play with his distant cousins at the Pennelé Castle in Morlaix; this magnificent property had been bought with the profits made during the sailcloth trade with England and the New World colonies. Anvers (Antwerp), in Belgium, was then the real great port for Breton goods. Thousands of small boats left hundreds of small Breton ports to go to Antwerp, where the ocean going vessels were then loaded. I heard about an aunt who owned over one hundred beehives and exported her honey through the port of Antwerp via the port of Toul an Hery, near Plestin, in Brittany.

Accordingly as my great-granduncles had become rich, they had bought a title of nobility. My great-grandfather, determined to do exactly like them, left Lanmeur and settled in Morlaix and added the surname "de Kerouac" which he took from a farm that stood in an area of the same name, in doing so, he put himself on an even rank with the Pennelé, i.e. the cousins from the castle of Pennelé. Unfortunately, the French King Louis 14th imposed a trade blockade on English products, which was then naturally followed by an English blockade on products from Brittany, particularly on sailcloth. My great-grandfather's business declined and he no longer could keep up his family's comfortable life style and even less pretend to buy a title of nobility. Therefore, my grandfather, Laurens, became a royal notary like many of his ancestors. He settled in Huelgoat, a town that was fast developing thanks to the exploitation of the surrounding forests and the silver-lead mines in Poullaouen. My uncle, Louis le Bihan, also a notary in Huelgoat, was involved in the 1698 refor-



Author, Alain Olmi, alias Jean Kersco
(Photo: Hélène Kirouac Pelletier)

mation of the nobles in the Huelgoat region. The latter had to prove their noble origin going back many generations in order to enjoy the privileges attached to said titles. Abuses were frequent at the time, particularly amongst the 'bourgeois' i.e. the new-rich middle-class who had invented noble ancestors for themselves. However, as my uncle pored over ancient archives he found that our ancestors had been true nobles, the Le Bihan, related to the Kerscau family were Nobles of the Sword in Guinevez but, unfortunately their income had not been enough to enable them to live only from their revenues, so they became notaries. My uncle decided to use the surname again, but his fortune, however important, did not enable him to buy a title of nobility. As for my father, the whole thing left him quite indifferent.

However, one day, I was invited to a wedding and it turned out to be a real trap in which I tumbled. On the one hand, the girl fell in love with me; on the other hand, her brother had real money problems due to a few years of poor harvests. As everyone was more inebriated than I realised, they attacked the honour of my family and me personally. For my father, that was more than enough, he got very angry and sued them. Of course they apologized and the judge was most lenient - in Brittany it is not a crime to be drunk - but the whole episode

stuck to my name and affected my reputation; in addition I had to put up with my mother's endless reproach. My parents recommended I leave Huelgoat until the things calmed down. So I went to Lanmeur, land of my ancestors. After a few months in Lanmeur only working as a notary's clerk, I got bored to tears. Going back to Huelgoat, was out of the question there was no room for me as my brothers and cousins were holding all the notaries' positions.

From my uncle in Brest, I had heard about Canada and its great opportunities. Some had come back from New France with a fortune built on the fur trade, while others had disappeared for ever swallowed by the cold climate and Indians' attacks. Had I been 'noble' I could have become an officer, but I was not. However, (in the new world) I could build a large estate, have many descendants and, once my fortune made, I could also

buy a title of nobility. Later, with my head held high, I could go back to the country of the "Le Bihan" where all the "small" bourgeois concentrate solely on daily routine, dreaming of little deeds, and to my mother who could only disapprove of me.

For all these reasons, in my new life, I created a noble mother for myself, I also gave myself the title 'de Kerouac', provisionally of course, while I was building up my wealth in order to live up to it. Noble in New France, what a wonderful revenge! As for my Christian name, why not change it too. I had to translate the adventures of Alexandre le Grand, while studying with the Jesuit Fathers in Quimper. He was a true conqueror! So, why not Alexandre? Alexandre *le Bras* (the strong arm) being a bit too pretentious, I converted it to Alexandre *le Bris*, dit *Le Breton*, so I would not forget my dear Brittany.

My father gave me my share of inheritance from his assets and I left . . . I bought a large estate, I took a wife, I have some heirs . . . But here I am, shivering with fever on this ship waiting for the ice to break up in order to leave the New World. I know not what the future holds for me, therefore I am writing these notes and I put in the hands of the Holy Providence. I will place these sheets in a bottle that I will throw overboard. Could whoever finds these notes be kind enough to locate my family and explain to them that my American dream has succeeded or failed, depending on God's will.

Signed: Urbain-François Le Bihan, dit (known as) Le Breton, known as Alexandre Le Bris de Kervoach.

Translated by Marie Lussier Timperley for Le Trésor des Kirouac, number 94, December 2008.



Photo: Alain Olmi

The beach at Moulin de la Rive near Lanmeur, Bretagne, France



PRESS RELEASE

Published on 15 November 2008

The Beat Generation coming to life again at the Largo Resto-Club

Quebec City, 10 November 2008 – *The Largo Arts Foundation*, in collaboration with *Production Rhizome* and the *Pantoute Book Shop*, present **Jack, where is Jack?** on 18, 19 and 20 November 2008 at the Largo Resto-Club - the House of Jazz. The event is part of a literary & Jazz series started last spring with a show entitled **Satori in Quebec City**. This grand happening is a rendez-vous with the *Beat Generation* through an immersion in the writings of the great poet and writer Jack Kerouac. It is an occasion to underline the French Canadian roots of Kerouac at the end of the celebrations for Quebec City's 400th anniversary. Three evenings on the road paved with words with the participation of well-known poets and narrators: Guy Marchamps and Yves Boisvert, the unique warm voice of Karen Young and the accomplished jazz musicians of Normand Guilbeault Ensemble, Jean Derome, Gilles Bernard and many others.

Bop for Kerouac

Jack, where is Jack? Begins on Tuesday, 18 November 2008, at 8 p.m. with a commemoration of the great (and only French) 1987 **Rencontre Internationale Jack Kerouac** in Quebec City. Poets Guy Marchamps, Yves Boisvert, José Acquelin and Nora Atalla will read texts inspired by Jack Kerouac accompanied by a Jazz Quartet including Jean Derome (saxophone), Gilles Bernard (piano), Pierre Côté (doublebase) and Raynald Drouin (percussion); an evening of improvisation and literature in perfect *Beat Generation* style.

Vision de /of Kerouac

On Wednesday, 19 November 2008 at 8 p.m., Normand Guilbeault Jazz Ensemble takes over. This concert comes right after the performance given in the USA in September 2007, during the LOWELL CELEBRATES KEROUAC FESTIVAL (50th Anniversary of the first printing of the famous book ON THE ROAD), Normand Guilbeault will present one of the most important works on Kerouac combined with a contemporary and historical vision. The writer's avant-gardism and modernity are all the more evident.

On the stage, VISIONS de/of KEROUAC are under the musical direction of double-base Normand Guilbeault, Nicolas Landré (singing and narration), Sylvain Provost (guitar); Alex Côté (saxophone) and Claude Lavergne (percussion). These visions are surrounded and completed by projections Vj live by Raphaëlle Lambert.

Wink to Kerouac

On Thursday, 20 November 2008, at 8 p.m., the end of the road with the trio Young/Provost/Guilbeault; high calibre jazz with the legendary voice of Karen Young, the singing guitar of Sylvain Provost and Normand Guilbeault's grooving double-base. The programme includes: wink to Kerouac's prose in osmosis with yesteryears' and today's jazz standards, from Oliver Nelson to Charles Mingus: the perfect repertoire chosen by three living Jazz encyclopaedias.

Jack, where is Jack?

Tuesday, 18 November at 8 p.m., \$15:

Bop for Kerouac with Guy Marchamps, Yves Boisvert, José Acquelin and Nora Atalla reading texts as well as Jean Derome (saxophone), Gilles Bernard (piano), Pierre Côté (double-base) and Raynald Drouin (percussion)

Wednesday, 19 November at 8 p.m., \$15:

Vision de /of Kerouac, Normand Guilbeault Jazz Ensemble

Thursday, 20 November at 8 p.m., \$20:

Wink to Kerouac - Trio Young/Provost/Guilbeault

LARGO RESTO-CLUB – LA MAISON DU JAZZ (The House of Jazz)

(643, rue Saint-Joseph Est Québec)

RESERVATION : 418 529-3111

Visit Cuba with Marie-Victorin

Special collaboration: André Bouchard from Montréal University

QUÉBEC, 10 DECEMBER 2008
KIROUAC FAMILY ASSOCIATION
MARIE-VICTORIN OBSERVATORY

Professor André Bouchard, pointed out to us the following article published on 9 December 2008 in *Forum*, a Montreal University newspaper. The article, written by Mathieu-Robert Sauvé, editor of *Forum*, is about the recently opened exhibition at the Montreal Botanical Garden about Brother Marie-Victorin (Conrad Kirouac)'s travels and works in Cuba.

We wish to thank Mr. Bouchard for his immense contribution and dedication to spread the knowledge about Marie-Victorin's works and we hope that all the K/s and their friends will avail themselves of the privilege to visit the exhibition in 2009.

Lucie Jasmin,
Responsible for the Marie-Victorin Observatory

"Yearly over 300,000 Quebecers, go to Cuba but very few know about the contribution made by Brother Marie-Victorin to the scientific knowledge of that country," underlines Dr. André Bouchard, professor at the

Department of Biological Sciences and instigator of the exhibition *Under the Cuban Sun*, that opened to the public at the Montreal Botanical Garden on 5 December 2008. In this exhibition, those who like enjoying an all-inclusive stay in the South are invited to look beyond the beaches to discover new pleasures under the tropical sun; with Marie-Victorin as their guide.

Conrad Kirouac, a.k.a. Brother Marie-Victorin (1885-1944), travelled to Cuba on seven occasions during the last five years of his life, combing the island from east to west to study and discover its flora. The *Itinéraires botaniques dans l'île de Cuba*, (Botanical Itineraries in Cuba) (written in French) include 1100 pages and hundreds of photos, taken by Marie-Victorin himself; for decades, with the *Flora de Cuba* written (in

Spanish), by Brother Léon, the French botanist with whom Marie-Victorin corresponded for thirty years, these books made up the botanical bible of the pearl of the West Indies.

Planned and developed by nature museum specialists Francine Hoffman, Annick Poussart and Michel Lambert, with the collaboration of Montreal University's Archives and Documents Services, the exhibition offers an itinerary planned around the discoveries of the two Brothers. Today's Cuban natural heritage is presented as well as the measures in place to preserve it. Marie-Victorin not only explored Pinar del Río, Cienfuegos, Holguín but also studied the Cuban people with affection and open-mindedness.

Dracaena cubensis, a spectacular plant reaching three meters (10 feet) in height (photo), is but one of the twenty new species discovered by the founder of the (Montreal) Botanical Garden during his field explorations in Cuba. According to Dr. André Bouchard, who, last year at the *Presses de l'Université de Montréal*, published the correspondence between the two botanists between 1907 and 1944, the finding of new species is not what history should remember most of **the best known Quebec scientist**.

Université de Montréal, Fonds Institut botanique (E 118)



(Mr. Carabia and Marie-Victorin examining a cone from a *Microcycas calocoma*)



He was amongst the first local professors who systematically reconciled teaching and research, taking as their reference the most forward-thinking American university professors. And Dr. Bouchard adds: "Every researcher and every student at Montreal University should see the exhibition to understand the extent of Marie-Victorin's modern vision of science."

The religious man was a bold innovator by openly adopting an ecological approach. "Today, this seems quite normal, but plants cannot be studied without taking into account the influence of insects, geology and human activities, insists Dr. Bouchard. Today, there is an international association of landscape ecologists and a high calibre magazine called *Landscape Ecology*... When studying Marie-Victorin's contribution, he definitely can be regarded as the father of landscape ecology." One example of his encyclopaedic knowledge can be found in his description of the *Dracaena cubensis* when referring to continental drifting.

From Montréal to La Habana
Enjoying a particular status within his religious order, the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Marie-Victorin was able to use part of his personal fortune to finance his travels; within a five-year period, he spent a total of sixteen months in Cuba. Away from his Superiors'



Brother Léon and Brother Marie-Victorin on a sugarcane wagon.

scrutiny, he stayed at a hotel where, some whisper, his behaviour was sometimes not quite what was expected (from a religious brother)! But such hearsay does not affect the serious of his explorations, the field-work he had been dreaming of for so long. "As early as 1907, Marie-Victorin was interested in Cuba, as one can read in his letters to Brother Léon, underlines André Bouchard. However, his first expedition was only in 1938. He had three decades to prepare his project."

At the pinnacle of his career - the *Flore laurentienne* was highly acclaimed and the Montreal Botanical Garden had been open for quite a while already-, until recently, Marie-Victorin's journeys to Cuba seemed of secondary importance. It was known that the man of the cloth

hated winter and that he had health problems exacerbated by the climate in the temperate zone, so it was more or less taken for granted that he went there to rest.

Dr. André Bouchard's research is throwing new light on the Cuban chapter in the botanist's life and now it appears more and more as the scientist's masterpiece.

Dr. André Bouchard himself got caught in this Cuban project to such an extent that he enlisted in Spanish courses in order to better understand the language spoken in Cuba. Even if, according to him, he is the worse student in the class, he managed to write a press release in Spanish to announce the new exhibition. And at Christmas time, he will be going back to Cuba with his family . . . with Marie-Victorin as their guide.

Inauguration of the Exhibition, *Under the Cuban Sun with Marie-Victorin*, at the Montreal Botanical Garden - 4 December 2008



Pierre Kirouac with Louis Lavoie, personifying Brother Marie-Victorin. (Photo: collection Pierre Kirouac)



Marie-Victorin's head sculpted by Mrs Sylvia Daoust, the artist who also sculpted the full-size statue of the Brother standing at the entrance of the Montreal Botanical Garden. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)



Mr. Sergio Vélez, General Consul of Cuba, Mrs. H. E. Teresita Vicente Sotolongo, Cuban Ambassador, Mrs. Paule Lamontagne, President of the Friends of the Montreal Botanical Garden, Mr. Gilles Vincent, Director of the Montreal Botanical Garden and Mr. Charles-Mathieu Brunelle, General Director of the Nature Museums of Montréal.

Photo: Michel Tremblay, from the Montréal Botanical Garden





Photo: Michel Tremblay, from the Montréal Botanical Garden

Dr. André Bouchard, Mrs. H. E. Teresita Vicente Sotolongo, Cuban Ambassador, Mr. Louis Lavoie, aka Brother Marie-Victorin, Mr. Michel Lambert, Mrs. Francine Hoffman, Dept. Head, Nature Sciences Public Programmes, Mrs. Rosa Adela Mejias Jiménez, Director of Cuba's Tourist Bureau.



(Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

The *Caliente Son* musicians and singers enlivened the evening with their vibrant rhythms.

Recently Published

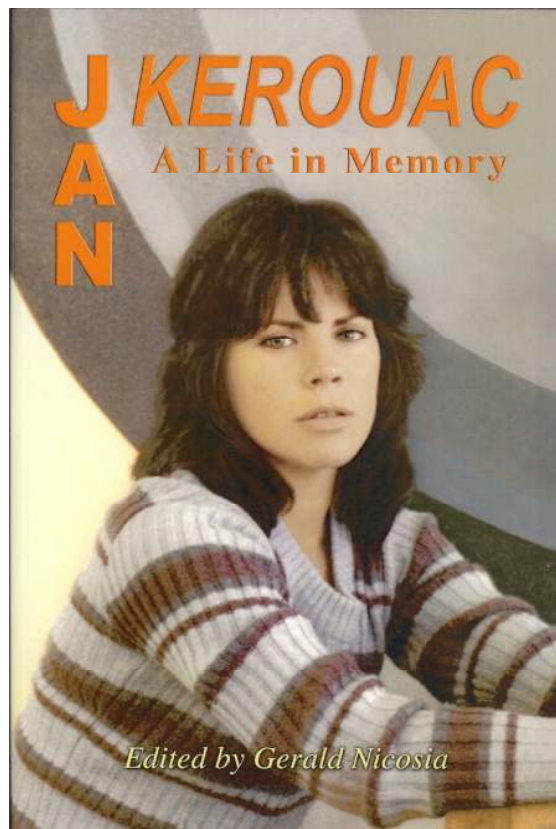
The K/rouac Family Association is pleased to announce the release of a new book edited by Gerald Nicosia, a long lasting friend of the Association and author of *MEMORY BABE*, the best biography ever written about Jan's father, Jack Kerouac. Along with candid, poignant revelations and interviews with and about Jan, it contains many exclusive photographs. Seventeen different authors contributed texts found in this 190-page book that will sell for \$21.95 US in bookstores. The KFA has contributed financially to the printing of the book.

IT CAN NOW BE ORDERED DIRECTLY FROM:

Gerald Nicosia, P.O. Box 130, Corte Madera, California, USA
94976-0130

Cost including Shipping & Handling is: \$30 US if shipped to a Canadian address, \$25 US if shipped within the USA. **IMPORTANT:** Payment must be made by regular bank cheque (check) in US dollars payable to Gerald Nicosia. DO NOT USE CANADA POST INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS as they are likely to be refused by both American banks and the US Postal Service.

We know you will enjoy reading it. The Editors.



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Gilles Matte

Architect and Watercolorist

In 2000 when some Kirouacs were preparing to visit the land of their ancestor, a search began for a suitable gift to be presented to our hosts in Brittany. Thus Marie Kirouac, an art teacher in one of the best Quebec City Colleges, discovered a most interesting book by Gilles Matte entitled *Carnets du Saint-Laurent* (1). About the St. Lawrence River, the very road travelled by our Ancestor, the 18th century fur merchant, and so beautifully illustrated with Gilles Matte's watercolours. So the *Carnets du Saint-Laurent* was offered to four mayors in Brittany who welcomed us during our July 2000 journey; it was the ideal gift to thank them for their generous and gracious welcome.

In his first book, Gilles Matte describes in his own words and illustrates with his watercolours the majestic St. Lawrence River. Produced in collaboration with Gilles Pellerin, this delightful and high-quality volume has since been reprinted twice, making it a literary and artistic success in Quebec.

In 2008, when *Les carnets du Vieux-Québec* (3) was published, it seemed the perfect motive for some members of the editorial team of *Le Trésor des Kirouac* to meet the artist who unknowingly had accompanied the thirty-two Kirouacs in Brittany in 2000.

Gilles Matte welcomed us in his home on *Le Chemin du Roy* in Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures, near Quebec City. Being an architect by training, he designed his beautiful country house overlooking the River. The many large windows afford a striking perspective of the St. Lawrence to the south. The interview took place in his studio adjoining his dining room.

He kindly told us how the *Carnets du Saint-Laurent* came about. He loves sailing on the River, while on his boat he used to draw and paint the shores and light-houses he is particularly fond of. He was so fascinated by the great River that he decided to publish his watercolours in a first book. The shape of the book "Italian style" that is horizon-

tally, was inspired by what he saw in Paris while travelling and researching; it is the shape favoured by the specialist of this type of books because it enables to show the landscape on two adjoining pages when the book is open. Of course this was perfect for his watercolours.

During this fascinating meeting, far too short in everyone's opinion, Gilles Matte showed us the sketches he later used in the book and he explained the various stages of the production of such a notebook. Then, the conversation automatically went on to the *Carnets du Vieux-Québec*.

Over the years he had accumulated a number of watercolours and sketches of Old Quebec. Therefore the 400th Anniversary of Quebec City seemed the ideal time to publish another notebook. This third book is just as marvellous as the previous two. The following, in his words, is what he has to say about the *Vieux Québec* that always fascinated him:

"I first became aware of the area known as Old Quebec as a young boy. I was studying at the Elementary School Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague, located just outside the city walls. From the school playground I could see the rather frightening ramparts and their dark posterns (gates). Whenever a ball went over the fence, it was in fear and trembling that I went to fetch it from the large ditch that ran the length of the walls. Added to this the very strong smell of malt emanating from the Boswell Brewery, located nearby, made the expedition even more hazardous.

"During my Classical Course (in Quebec then, an eight-year French

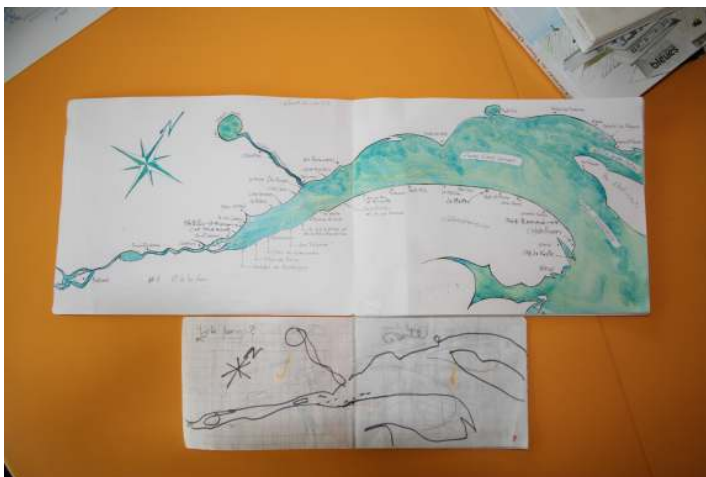


Photo: François Kirouac

Sketches for the book: *Carnets du Saint-Laurent* (St. Lawrence's Notebook)

course was the equivalent of high-school & college) at the Quebec Academy. The Academy was located in the heart of Old Quebec and lunch hours were used to explore the surroundings. With two school friends, we found our way to the top of the Price Building; an exhilarating height for us then, we also investigated the Château Frontenac Hotel in all its nook and crannies, and even dared explore the middle-aged-like labyrinth of the Citadel. Curiosity took us to the, then, dark and dank streets Sous-le-Cap and Petit-Champlain. (5)

"In 1963, I was privileged to study at the Laval University School of Architecture while it was still located on the Mont-Carmel Street, though for the last year, within a stone's throw of the Music Conservatory. I still remember very vividly the many hours spent drawing the architecture of the old city, the many sleepless nights spent working at the drawing table, the dollar meals at the Café de la Paix, and the five o'clock beer at the Bar La Chapelle, the tavern in the Clarendon Hotel.

"Little by little, history becomes part of one's souvenirs and impressions. It is impossible to remain indifferent to the architectural secrets and revelations of various buildings and scenery. On each street corner you come across a famous character reminding you of some historical feat, followed closely by actors who took part in the local and more recent history; as time goes by, somewhat you become entangled in a web of timeless events. The same goes for the ever present River so solidly anchored to the city and its memory!"

With the 400th Anniversary approaching I felt inspired to use drawing and water colour and humbly join hundreds of other artists who were celebrating the beauty of Quebec City since its foundation. Like them, I decided to make mine



Gilles Matte in his studio

Photo: François Kirouac

this great lady and study the most moving facets of her personality. These sketches offer a very personal journey through Old Quebec City sometimes going a little outside the boundaries of the historical district, but it is meant to be a glimpse, amongst others, of the things that are very close to my heart. I hope it will incite you to map out your own itinerary and to discover it as you fancy."

The publication in 2008 of the *Carnets du Vieux-Québec* (4), is Gilles Matte's third book in this series. The second one was about the Magdalen Islands (3). It is a superb album and, surprise for us, it includes quotes from *Chez les Madelinots* (2) the book Brother Marie-Victorin wrote about these remarkable islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Of course we could not end this interview without asking him about his future projects. He is working on a fourth sketch book but, for the moment, he will not say more than it will be on a special theme and that he is researching. It is interesting to know that creating and pro-

ducing such a notebook can easily take four years.

For you, our readers of *Le Trésor*, this is a short account of our visit with a wonderful sensitive artist who enables us to share his passion for nature through his works and his art.

We are most grateful to Gilles Matte for his very warm welcome and we encourage our readers to buy his wonderful art books **CARNETS**.

The Editors

(1) *Carnets du Saint-Laurent*, text and watercolours by Gilles Matte, Gilles Pellerin, contributor, published in 1999 by Édition Les Heures bleues.

(2) *Chez les Madelinots* by Brother Marie-Victorin, F.E.C.; drawings by Edmond J. Massicotte, published in Montreal in 1921 by the Frère des Écoles chrétiennes, Montréal 1921.

(3) *Carnets des Îles de la Madeleine*, watercolours by Gilles Matte, Georges Langford, contributor, published in 2003 by Édition Les Heures bleues.

(4) *Carnets du Vieux-Québec*, watercolours by Gilles Matte, text by Geneviève Auger, published in 2008 by Édition Les Heures bleues.

(5) Totally renovated they are nowadays a great tourist attractions. (Translator's note)



Bretons and Brittany

During the 1980s and 1990s, as we were searching for the birthplace of our Ancestor, only one thing we knew for sure: our Ancestor hailed from Brittany. From one generation to the next this fact was transmitted and we also knew that our Ancestor's contemporaries named him *Le Breton*. Also, on 4 December 1733, Intendant Hocquart (top French Administrator), addressed an order in council to all Militia Captains of the Côte-du-Sud, including our Ancestor calling him: *Le Breton*. Obviously for good reason!

Most likely very proud to belong to the Breton people and sure that this surname well and properly identified him, he used it when signing official documents. It seems that he could not be mistaken for someone else when signing: *Le Breton*. But these Bretons, our Ancestor's people, and the Le Bihan from Huelgoat, who were they and where did they come from?

Before going on with the English text, here are a few helpful notes from your translator about some rather confusing place names. I had to read the text twice before understanding some of the geography! Isle de Bretagne, is translated by Island of Bretagne, it refers to today's British Isles! Armorique, or the Armorican Peninsula, is today's continental Bretagne. Petite Bretagne = Brittany; Grande Bretagne = Great Britain. When Gaule is mentioned, it refers basically to today's France. Enjoy!
— Marie Lussier Timperley

In his book entitled: *Traditions de Bretagne*, published by Éditions Marabout, Jean Markale writes that the Celts appeared in Europe around the 9th century BC. *"The Celts slowly spread over the entire western part of the continent, bringing with them two things that revolutionized the world: horse and iron. There were probably not that many Celts but they constituted a warring and intellectual elite which managed to impose itself*

on all the local indigenous populations. Hence a brilliant civilisation based on cattle breeding, agriculture, and metallurgy developed and, the cement holding it all together was one language and one religion, druidism which spread everywhere the Celts expanded and brought their traditions. Within the Armorican peninsula, lived many Gallic speaking peoples: Redo-ne in and around Rennes, Namnète around Nantes, Venete in Vannes, Coriosolitaë on the Côtes-du-Nord (France's north-shore) and Osismii in Finistère.

"When Julius Caesar invaded Gaule, the Armorican Peninsula was quickly subdued under the Roman Emperor's rule. But in 56 BC, the Venete, heading the powerful Armorican confederation, rebelled against Cesar and forced him to start a difficult campaign against them. The Venete had a powerful naval armada and ruled the oceans; they were also helped by the Bretons from the Island of Bretagne with whom they were closely connected. In addition, their fortresses were built in marshy lands located around the Gulf of Morbihan (France), making them impregnable. Caesar had ships built in the Loire delta

and declared war on the Venete fleet. The confrontation took place beyond the Rhuys peninsula, in the Bay of Quiberon. The Venete ships were equipped with heavy sails made from animal skins, they raced towards the Roman ships and were about to sink them one after the other whence the wind dropped. The Venete fleet was suddenly immobilized, bad luck for them; the Romans in their rowing boats accosted the enemy vessels and carnage ensued. Thus the Venete resistance was quashed. Julius Cesar organized a ruthless repression, the Venete intellectual elite was sent into exile, and their country devastated. All of Armorique was subjugated and romanized. The numerous isolated Roman camps, that have been discovered since, all date from that period. Many old paved roads built by the Celts were then transformed, greatly improved and widened by the invaders to become the famous Roman roads (a network covering most of Western Europe). Nevertheless, in spite of some revolts that were quickly suppressed, Armorique became one of the most solid bastions of Romanism within the Roman Empire. On the other hand, when Christianity spread, it reached the Armorican Peninsula through Tours, the metropolis it depended on, and three Bishoprics were created: Nantes, Rennes and Vannes.



Megalithic stone monuments in Carnac

Photo: Marie Kirouac



The Guimiliau Calvary

Breton Emigration

"However, the Celts from the Island of Bretagne, that is the original Bretons, who, like all others, were under the Emperor's rule, had managed to retain more liberties and a great deal more autonomy. During the 3rd century AD, many Bretons from the Island of Britain settled in Armorique. The causes of this migration are not very clear. It seems that, at first, the Bretons might have been transplanted by the Roman administration into an under-populated Armorique.

"Anyhow, during the 5th century and, particularly through the 6th century, this migration phenomenon became a human tidal wave. In fact, towards the end of the 5th century, when the Roman Empire was collapsing, the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes started to invade the Island of Britain. The impact of these Germanic peoples settling there would be very important indeed. The Bretons from the Island of Britain had already been invaded by the Picts and now the Angles and the Saxons. Led by a Chief, the *machtiern*, or even a high priest, very large groups of people were gathered in the south-west part of the Island of Britain. They went to Brittany and founded many new establishments all over the peninsula called **plou** or **lann**. When studying the local toponymy of Brittany today, these two words are still found everywhere.

"First, the regions of Dol and St. Malo were affected by the immigration, then the whole northern coast; most immi-

grants came from the south-west region of England, Cornwall and Devon. Afterwards, the Bretons from other parts of the Island of Britain, particularly from Wales, appeared in the western part of continental Bretagne. Finally the southern seaside parts of continental Bretagne saw an influx of mainly Welsh migrants.

"This is how the name *Petite Bretagne* came to be and, by opposition, the Island of Bretagne became known as the *Grande Bretagne*. However, in Great Britain just about the whole island had fallen into the hands of the Angles and the Saxons, but not so Cornwall and Wales. Thence, *Armorique* lost its name and found a new Celtic flavour thanks to the newcomers who brought with them their traditions and their language the *langue bretonique*, i.e. the language spoken in the Island of Bretagne and in the *Petite Bretagne* it gave birth to two idioms: *gallois* (Gaelic) and *breton-armoricain*.

"However, the immigrants were bringing far more than that. They had preserved their social structures very different from the continental ones. The *Bretons* constituted very small kingdoms, all independent from one another and ruled by elected chiefs. In addition, the *Bretons* had also kept their religious traditions which were somewhat different from the continental ones. They did not have diocese like the Romans did, but their territories were under the governance of an

Abbot who had the power of a Bishop. Consequently, on the Armorican peninsula, *abbayes-évêchés*, e.g. monastery headed by an Abbot/Bishop, were found like on the *Island of Britain*: Dol, Aleth later becoming Saint-Malo, Saint-Brieuc, Tréguier, Saint-Pol-de-Léon, and Coz-Yaudet, eventually transferred to Carhaix, and very soon after to Quimper. Massive waves of immigrants crossed the channel to Armorique including entire tribes..."

The author, Jean Chagnolleau, also tells us about the origin of the Breton people in his book, **La Bretagne**, published in the series *Coins de France*, in 1964.

"During the 5th and 6th centuries, the Bretons fleeing the tyranny of the Anglo-Saxons found refuge in Armorique. Emigration started around the year 460. Who were these Bretons? They were Celts who had been living in Great-Britain for a very long time. Forced out by the advancing Saxon wave, they literally hung on to every **finistères*** i.e. **lands ends** they could in Great-Britain: Scotland in the North, Wales and Cornwall in the West and South-West. Unable to remain in those parts, the Celts turned themselves into invaders and emigrated to Armorique: they landed with their traditions, language, religious rites, and souvenirs. (**finistères* is made up of the two French words: *fin* + *terre* = end + land; translator's note).

Wherever they settled in Armorique they gave the place names they had brought from Great Britain: Cornouaille, Domnonée... and they also changed the name Armorican Peninsula for *Petite Bretagne*, or simply Bretagne! In addition, their language absorbed and even drowned the Gallo-Roman language. We do not know at all if they encountered any resistance from the local inhabitants, Gaubis and Gallo-Romans, when they landed in Armorique. Did they manage to assimilate them? Was the population very small? In any case, the Bretons became the absolute masters of their adoptive land. It seems that at first they were only interested in the western part of Brittany, then slowly moving eastward,





The Guimiliau Calvary

worrying more and more the Carolingian monarchy.

"Whole clans arrived in waves, settling into a well-defined zone, without intermingling with the nearby tribes. They were all Celts, but not from the "same side". Celts are not social beings, but they like the family feeling; and no matter how many members there are in a family, the Celt likes to be able to link all to a common ancestor; even today, don't we still talk about *des cousins à la mode de Bretagne*? ('Cousins, related in the Breton fashion' are distant relations, not necessarily blood relations; translator's note).

"Is it surprising then that the Armorican Peninsula was all subdivided into regions that they called *pays*? (and *pays* is country in English; translator's note). So the Breton talk about *le pays Nantais* meaning the region around Nantes, same for Trégor, Penthievre, etc. And the homogeneity within each *pays*, i.e. region, is very real and obvious. The old jurisdictions, whether nobiliary or ecclesiastical, respected the very personal territories with meticulousness akin to a geological study. This may well explain the special and different features of someone from Vannes, Cornouaille, and Léon.

"Strangely enough, one could think that the Bretons dreaded the vicinity of the sea because it seems that the sea always brings them misfortunes and worries. The old communities were nestled at the end of deltas, where the tide could still bring boats and where it was easy to build bridges between the river banks: Dinan, Morlaix, Quimper, Auray, Vannes... Parishes, the true tangible and material expression of a clan, were created first and, later, the towns followed; for example, Morlaix included the territories of Ploujean and Plourin; Landerneau was answerable to Plouédern and Ploudiry; Port-Louis, to Riantes, Auray to Bree'h... Following the immigration waves, monks from Great-Britain established parish churches on the plateaux staying away from the coasts and valleys. Around the church, a borough would grow. Interestingly enough, in France, religion goes from the towns in to the countryside, to the peasants (e.g. the pagans). In Brittany, the opposite happened: where the immigrants settled, the original parish would grow, it was rural, ecclesiastical, and popular; the rich landowners did not help its establishment. Looking at the toponymy of the present day villages, the prefix plou, is very common, it can also be Plé, Pleu, Pla, and it indicates the original parish,

the clan residence as plou comes from the Latin word *plebs* meaning tribe). The word following the prefix is usually a person's name, either the priest or monk who founded the parish. It is in the *bourg* = borough, that later on the schools, businesses, shops, inns, and the City Hall would be constructed. The population of the borough was usually rather small compared to the total population of the "commune" (in France, this refers to the smallest territorial division, usually a parish). Normally, only a few houses are built together, at a crossroad for example and that makes up a tiny village, or the houses might be completely isolated. This affinity to solitude is a typically Breton characteristic. In order to protect their fields against the wind, either where food is growing or cattle is kept, the Breton peasants built innumerable banks planted with oak trees and gorse. They built their homes everywhere, but usually away from others, by the country streams, sometimes hidden at the bottom of valleys. Not only were they not afraid of loneliness but, more often, it seems they yearned for it. Literally, as the word implies, they chose to live away from the boroughs. They preferred the company of their fields to that of human beings; they lived by themselves and were very autonomous.

"The Breton population has always shown a profound gratitude, mixed with admiration, to the monks who founded their parishes that added an extraordinary creative apostolic activity to their austerity and solitude. The clergy came from the mother-country (*Grande-Bretagne*) where there were rich monasteries and lots of monks and these pious religious persons were canonized alive by their parishioners. Brittany is known as the "Country of Sanctuaries", consequently, the country of the saints. In their honour, everywhere, one finds chapels and fountains, oratories by the beaches, pilgrimages and legends, statues, paintings, images, stained-glass windows, songs and hymns! But this is all unheard of in the rest of Christianity!"

The Editors

SAINT YVES⁽¹⁾

Now we know that our ancestor was born in Huelgoat and that his family was Catholic, therefore he was most likely baptised in the Parish Church of Saint Yves. However, who was Saint Yves, the Patron Saint of Brittany?

In 1985, the Éditions France-Empire published *Histoire de la Bretagne* written by Mr Yann Brekelien. In his book, the author writes about Saint Yves who was one of the most important celebrities of the eighth century in Brittany. "Saint Yves is venerated as the Patron Saint of all members of the legal profession." Below is the translation of what the author wrote in his history book about Brittany.

"Yves Hélouri de Kermartin was born in 1253 near (the town of) Tréguier. His education was exemplary. His mother, Azou du Kenkiz, often repeated to him: *Gra diouz beza sans, ma mab!* (My son, conduct yourself (in such a way as) to become a saint.) He was barely fourteen when he was sent to Paris to further his studies accompanied by his tutor, Jehan de Kergoz. Among boisterous students, protesting and more likely to argue with a dagger than a dictionary, he was known for his piety, chastity, mortifications, love of the poor, and as a hard-working student. Though his mother tongue was Gaelic/Breton, he soon excelled in Latin and French dissertation. He obtained a Master of Arts Diploma (*maître ès arts*). For a while he taught literature, and, later, always accompanied by Jehan de Kergoz, he went to study Law in Orléans where some of the best jurisconsult (legal expert) like Pierre de la Chapelle and Guillaume de Blaye, were then.

"Back in Brittany, Yves was named official (legal counsel & executive assistant) of the Archdeacon in Rennes with the important salary of fifty pounds per year; but, he distributed most of his salary to the poor. He used an equal amount of knowledge, fairness, and compassion to settle the disputes to be sorted out by an official: suits between religious and lay people, legal action against heretic, marital problems, legal actions resulting from contract made under oath. He was ordained to the priesthood and, feeling homesick for his native parish, he returned to the diocese where he had grown and was named Rector of Trédrez, as well as official to the Bishop of Tréguier. Afterwards, he left Trédrez and was put in charge of the Parish of Louannec. His presbytery was the refuge



Photo: Collection AFK

for all mendicants and poor coming from all over Brittany.

"Not satisfied with looking after his parishioners and settling legal problems, he was also an itinerant preacher, and an excellent one whose rare talent attracted crowds. In addition, he often pleaded in courts others that his own of course. At the time, the lawyer's duties were incompatible with that of a priest or a judge; however, there was an exception when a judge or a priest defended, free of charge, poor and underprivileged people.

"To this day, many of Saint Yves' Counsel Speeches are famous. The first one was given in Tours, before returning to Brittany, in favour of a woman, an inn owner who had been the victim of two thieves. The unfortunate woman had been entrusted with a (small travelling) bag by two men with explicit warning never to part with it unless the two men were present. But, one day, one of the men came to her asking for the bag, explaining that they were leaving and that the other man was waiting for him in the street. So the trusting woman gave him the bag. The second man was now suing her, pretending he had been robbed. Yves defended the woman in front of the judge and drama ensued when he announced that the bag had been found but that his client could only deliver it in the presence of the two travelers, as it had been agreed to in the first place. The plaintiff, taken aback, lost his cool and finally confessed that the bag contained only old nails. He admitted to the fraud and denounced his accomplice.

"The canonization trial revealed many cases where Yves, not only pleaded free of charge for the poor or the widows, but that he also

paid from his own pocket the fees incurred, and carried the legal proceedings right to the Court of Appeal until he obtained final satisfaction. This is exactly what happened in the cases of: Richard Le Roux, from Trédrez, the widow Lenevez, from Pommerit, the daughter of a man called Manoy, from Louannec, and of so many others. He was the lawyer of the poor.

"He was an extraordinary lawyer and just as remarkable when acting as a judge. Humour and wit, he also knew how to make good use of. For example, a rich land lord from Rennes dragged a poor homeless man in court because he had inhaled the delicious aromas wafting out of the rich man's kitchen. In payment for the aroma, Yves, the Judge, granted the Lord ... the sound of a coin tinkling in his ear.

"The official from Tréguier, as a good Jurist, took very seriously the rights of Brittany. One day, Philippe le Bel, King of France, declared that he had been authorized by the Pope to collect a special tax on Church properties, and decided that he would collect that tax in Brittany. Saint Yves kept vigil day and night in front of the Treasure of the Cathedral to prevent the French emissaries to enter. Eventually, however, the king's agents managed to steal one of the Bishop's horses. The holy magistrate immediately alerted all the poor and peasants of Tréguier. With their help, it did not take long for the horse to be taken from the kidnappers.

"Yves died on 19 May 1303, and was canonized in 1347. Every year, his anniversary attracts magistrates and lawyers from around the world to Tréguier. He is the Patron Saint of all Jurists as well as the Patron Saint of Brittany, second only to Saint Anne. In his honour, the Bretons sing:

"Nann, n'eus ket e Breizh, nann, n'eus ket unau, Nann, n'eus ket eur zant evel sans Erwan!" (In Brittany there is no other saint, no other saint equal, no saint comparable, to Saint Yves!)

A popular Latin hymn adds humour to St. Yves reputation:

Sanctus Ivo erat Brito, (St. Ives was a Breton)
Advocatus et non latro, (Lawyer and no brigand)
Res miranda populo. (A thing amazing to the people.)

The Editors

(1) pronounced 'eve' in French; sometimes spelled **Ives** in English.



A Memory Steeped into History

LE BULLETIN DES CHENAUX

19 November 2008

Julie Veilleux

On 12 October 2008, The Saint-Stanislas Historical Society organized the launching of the short biography of Gaston Kirouac in the local community hall. Entitled *Prêtre, éducateur et Pasteur (Priest, Educator and Pastor)*, it was written by Mrs Janine Trépanier Massicotte from Saint-Stanislas.

After serving for thirty-two faithful years at the Saint-Joseph Seminary in Trois-Rivières where he was Director and also a history teacher, in 1987, Gaston Kirouac chose to settle in the region of the municipality (MRC) of des Chenaux. Sunday Vicar during twelve years (1974-86) at Sainte-Geneviève Parish Church, he became the Parish Curate in 1987. And in 1989, he also became the Curate of the Parish in Saint-Stanislas. Man of faith and kindness, he was deeply involved in the local community and did his very best to serve his parishioners. He is now retired but still lives in Sainte-Geneviève-de-Batiscan.

L'ouvrage In the book, we read about his youth, his choices in life, his undertakings and accomplishments. There are interesting photos and stories: one photo was taken with Pope John Paul II while he was in Rome doing graduate studies. Another photo taken in 1967, shows him with General Charles de Gaulle, at Saint-Joseph Seminary in Trois-Rivières,

only a few hours before the famous visitor threw to the crowd from the balcony of the Montreal City Hall, his infamous *Vive le Québec libre!* For a history teacher, that is quite a moment to remember!

What Mrs. Massicotte finds most fascinating is the fact that Gaston Kirouac has lived through all the important changes that have happened within the (Catholic) Church during the last half-century: people of all ages leaving the church, young people's total lack of interest for religion, schools abandoning religious teaching and practice, etc. "It takes courage to face all that, and he did with heart and compassion," says Jeanine Massicotte.

Mrs. Massicotte, author and the mind behind the project, wanted to pay a special homage to Abbé Gaston Kirouac, because she considers that he has played an important role in the community. Fascinated by history

and having known Abbé Kirouac for many years through her implication in pastoral life, she mentioned that she had to insist to get his permission to write about him. He is a rather humble man and did not care much about the idea at first, but he finally accepted and says that he is happy with the result. "To dig deep in my childhood memories forced me to look back at my life. It was a healthy exercise that helped me better understand and appreciate the wonderful values passed on by my parents that enabled me to go through life", explains Abbé Kirouac.

The book costs \$15 and is on sale at the grocery stores in Ste-Geneviève-de-Batiscan and Saint-Stanislas, also at the Saint-Stanislas Pharmacy.



PHOTO: Fanny Prince

Gaston Kirouac's biography, written by Mrs. Janine Massicotte, presents the life of a teaching priest. Abbé Kirouac said that many of his religious colleagues would recognize themselves in the book as the souvenirs evoked are familiar to his generation.



Photo: LE BULLETIN DES CHENAUX

Those who spoke at the book launching: Jean-Paul Trudel, President of the Saint-Stanislas Historical Society, Abbé Gaston Kirouac, Mrs. Janine Trépanier Massicotte, the author, Marc E. Le Clerc, Mayor of Saint-Stanislas, Guy-Paul Beaudoin, Master of Ceremonies, Jacques Kirouac, brother of Gaston Kirouac, Guy Héroux, President of Sainte-Geneviève Historical Society, and Abbé Jean Panneton, current Director of the Trois-Rivières Seminary.

Press Review Marie-Victorin Park

On 26 November 2008, The *Sherbrooke Tribune* announced that the Directors and main partners of the Marie-Victorin Park in Kingsey-Falls had proceeded with the ground breaking ceremony marking the official beginning of the \$5M project that *Le Trésor* told you about in its last issue (number 93).

Yvon Vallières, local deputy, said: "We could have abandoned the project ten times during the planning phases, but we kept at it and today is a very special day. I believe people in the area will be very proud of this new park."

Building the new parking lot required to shift two sixteen-ton maple trees. All necessary



Entrance to the Marie-Victorin Park in Kingsey-Falls (Photo: François Kirouac)

precautions were taken to transport them without injuring them and they have been transplanted into the Park. This first phase of the work should be completed in time for the reopening of the Park in June 2009,

and then the second work phase will begin."

The Editors



A KIROUAC descendant in Nepal

By Doris Fréchette

In 2000, Michèle Legault, daughter of Claire Hurlbutise and granddaughter of Germaine Kirouac (AFK 00842), went to Nepal to do some trekking. Being a naturally warm-hearted person, Michèle easily befriended her guides and porters. After trekking she was invited to visit the villages where her guides lived. Michèle is no ordinary tourist: she likes to meet the true inhabitants of the country she is visiting and she is not afraid to walk off the beaten tracks.

She really enjoyed visiting the villages but what she discovered there also saddened her. People were smiling and welcoming and they were as generous as Mount Everest is high; these people have nothing but give everything. These Nepalese live in dire poverty, something almost impossible for us to imagine. Their houses are made of beaten dirt mixed with cow dung, they sleep on the dirt floor, women have to walk for hours to fetch water for their gardens and their animals, and there are no toilets. . . As there are no stove pipes, houses and lungs are filled with smoke that blackens everything. . . In short, living conditions are difficult, to say the least.

Michèle quickly realized that in order to help her new friends,

what she needed to do was to raise money at home in Canada. Candidly she said to them: "I will help you."

Eight years later, Michèle's work, helped by friends in Canada, has transformed the lives of these Nepalese villagers. Now, there are water fountains in many villages in the area, they also have toilets and stove pipes. And, that is just the beginning. Michèle also help improve the schools. She brought books and other teaching materials; one run-down school was even rebuilt through her efforts; in addition, she helped with the training of nurses and the construction of a medical clinic as well as organizing sewing classes and agriculture projects.

All of this has had a real impact on the quality of life of these vil-

lagers and it brings great hope for the future.

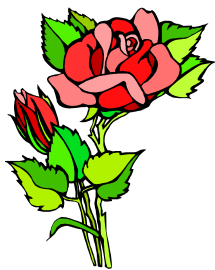
Since her first trip, Michèle has been going Nepal almost every year to visit her Nepalese friends. She is greeted as well as the Dalai Lama would be, with festivities and speeches by the local authorities. The Nepalese's appreciation of her presence and work has no limit and they certainly know how to express it.

If you wish to know more about Michèle's work in Nepal, please visit her web site at: www.secoursstiersmonde.org

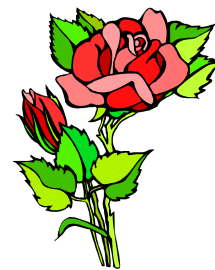


Collection Doris Fréchette

Michèle Legault, granddaughter of Germaine Kirouac (AFK 00842), in Népal



IN MEMORIAM



BEAUREGARD MYRIAM

In Trois-Rivières, on 7 January 2009, passed away at the age of 38, Mrs Myriam Beauregard. Funeral was on 17 January 2009 in the Church of the Precious-Blood in Saint-Hyacinthe. She leaves to mourn her two children: Audréane and Vincent Arsenault; her parents: Yolande Laplante and Jean-Marie Beauregard; her brother, Luc (**JULIE KIROUAC**, daughter of the late Jean-Marc Kirouac -AFK 00740); her sisters: Josée and Nathalie (Luc Petit).

FORTIN JEAN-GUY

In Granby, on 27 October 2008, at the age of 63, passed away Mr Jean-Guy Fortin, from Roxton Falls. He leaves to mourn his mother, Irène Dupuis (the late Gérard Fortin); her brothers and sisters: Gervaise (Fernand Lussier), Solange (Oliva Lussier), Marcel (**LUCE KIROUAC**, AFK 00785), André (Nicole Côté), Céline (Hermann Lamoureux), Bibianne (Gilles Gamache), Colette (Yvon Dufresne), Gérald, Maurice (**LINDA KIROUAC**, AFK 00786), Marjolaine (Lyn Beauregard), Reynold (Jocelyne Bédard), Chantale (Mario Proulx) as well as many cousins, nephews and nieces and other relatives and friends.

Funeral ceremony was on Thursday, 30 October 2008, in the chapel of the Bessette Funeral Parlour, followed by burial in the Cemetery of the Bessette Funeral Parlour.

KIROUAC ROMÉO

In Laval, on 15 November 2008, at the age of 93 years and eleven months, passed away Mr Roméo Kirouac, husband of the late Mrs Victoria Proulx. He leaves to mourn his children: Jeannette (Florian Boudreau), Nicole, Denyse (Paul), Roseline, Laurent (Chantal Côté) and Sylvain; his grandchildren: Odette (Claude), Annick (Paul) and Alexandre; his great-grand-children: Mathieu, Francis, Martine, Kim and Olivier; his sisters, Germaine and Aline (Jean); his nephews and nieces as well as many other relatives and friends. A religious ceremony took place on 21 November 2008 at the Funeral Parlour.

LA BOISSONNIÈRE JEANNINE KIROUAC

At the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital in Quebec City, on 13 January 2009, passed away at the age of 72 years and ten months, Mrs Jeannine KIROUAC (AFK 01992), wife of the late Mr Roger La Boissonnière. Religious service was on 19 January 2009 in the Church of Notre-Dame-de-Liesse in Rivière-Ouelle. Ashes will be buried later in the parish cemetery.

She leaves to mourn her children: Alain (Josianne Dubé), Lucie (Gilles Lavoie); her grandchildren: Olivier, Alexandra, Maxime, Antoine; her brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law from the Kirouac and La Boissonnière families; as well as many nephews, nieces, cousins and other relatives and friends.

MAISONNEUVE KIROUAC PAULINE

In Laval, on 27 November 2008, at the age of 82, passed away Mrs Pauline Maisonneuve, wife of Guy KIROUAC (AFK 00669). Beside her husband, she leaves to mourn her children, Lyse (Angus), the late Jean-Pierre (Helen), Anne, Michel (Jasmine) and Johanne; her grandchildren: Justin, Brett, Jean-Pierre, Anne-Marie, Jérémie, Joé, Mathieu, Alexandre and Jean-Sébastien; her five great-grand-children, her sister Lucille (Tony), her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law as well as many other relatives and friends. Funeral was on 1 December 2008 in Saint-Yves Church in Laval. Burial of the ashes will take place in May 2009. Pauline was also the sister-in-law of the late Jean-Yves Kirouac who was VP and President of our K/ Association.

TREMBLAY JEAN-MARC

On 29 October 2008, passed away in Dolbeau-Mistassini (Lake St-Jean), at the age of 55 years and seven months, Mr Jean-Marc Tremblay, husband of Mrs Adéline KIROUAC (daughter of Paul-Émile Kirouac AFK 00303). Funeral was held on 3 November 2008 in Sainte-Thérèse d'Avila Church in Dolbeau. The ashes were interred in the Columbarium Hébert & fils in Dolbeau.

He was the son of the late Lucien Tremblay and the late

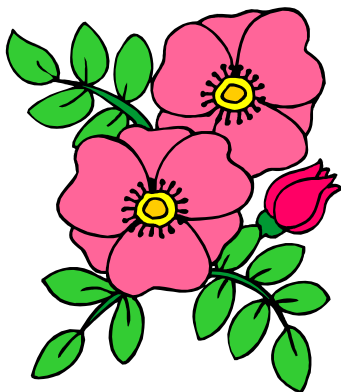


Annette Gosselin. Besides his wife, Adéline KIROUAC, he leaves to mourn his sons: Marco and Pierre (Cynthia Truchon); his grandchildren: Dorianne and Maverick Tremblay. He was the brother of: Yvon (Claire Ferland), Réjeanne (Noël Lavoie), the late Jacques, Jean-Claude (Louise Grenier), Raymonde (the late Jean-Rock Milot), the late Germain, the late Marcel (Doris Guay), Nicole (Sylvain Gauvin), the late Gérald (Marielle Potvin), Johanne and the late Sylvie (Albert Gauthier); his brother-in-law: Jean-Paul (Denise Dion), Oriette (Benoît Fortin), Louise, Gérald (Marie-Paule Michaud), Annie, Ginette, Gilles and Francine (Gaston Bérubé). He also leaves many uncles and aunts, cousins, nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends.

VAUDREUIL KIROUAC FERNANDE

At the CHSLD Le Chêne (elders' hospital) in Victoriaville, on Monday, 28 April 2008, passed away Mrs Fernande Vaudreuil of Victoriaville, at the age of 85, widow of the late **Bertrand Kirouac**. She leaves to mourn her children: Michel (Chantal Mongeau), Yves (Sylvie Savage), Esther (Mario Perreault) and Mireille (Clément Vautour); her three grandchildren Vincent, Bertrand and Louis-Alexandre Kirouac; also her brothers and sisters: the late Réjeanne (the late Edouard Breton), the late Monique, Mariette (the late Robert Lettre), Thérèse and Réal (Lise Gamache); her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: **Louise Kirouac** (the late Claude Boucher), the late Lorraine (Marcel Beaudet). Funeral was on Saturday, 3 May 2008, in the Church of the Saints-Martyrs in Victoriaville, followed by the burial at the Warwick Parish Cemetery.

Our Deepest Condolences to the Bereaved Families



Request for Free Land Grants to Families of Twelve Living Children

In 1890, the Liberal Government of Quebec Premier Honoré Mercier passed a law in the Quebec Parliament entitled: *Acte portant privilège aux pères ou mères de famille ayant douze enfants vivants*. The purpose of the Decree giving privileges to mothers or fathers with twelve living children was to grant FREE hundred-acre lot of public land to parents with twelve living children born in lawful wedlock.

According to the Web Site of Library and National Archives of Quebec (BANQ), "This deal brings back to memory the special dispositions enacted by King Louis 14th of France during the 17th Century to encourage natality in Canada. Indeed at the time, inhabitants who had "up to ten living children, born in lawful wedlock, non-priests, nor religious men or women, could receive an annual pension of 300 pounds, and as much as 400 pounds if there were twelve children."

According to the term of the decree, enacted by Premier Mercier "any father or mother of a family entitled to this privilege must present a request to the Province's Secretary, including a copy of the parents' Marriage Certificate, a birth certificate for each child as well as a special certificate given by a Judge of the Peace, attesting to the number of children and their names."

At the end of 1890, certain requirements of the Law were modified in order to facilitate granting free lands. For example, the birth certificate of each child was no longer required, but it was mandatory to obtain "from the local Parish Priest, where the petitioner lived, a certificate attesting to the facts cited by him or her."

"As of June 1904, persons eligible to receive free land could instead, obtain an allowance of \$50. Finally in May 1905, a new decree abolished the land grants and the allowances to families of twelve living children or more."

"Between 1890 and 1905, of the 5,413 families officially entitled to land grants, 4,977 received a plot or an allowance according to the Law. In spite of certain problems in enacting it, this decree was a real boon to those who did not yet own their land, particularly those who held a land leasing permit and the squatters to whom it was impossible to refuse the land they were already living on."

Amongst the families who asked and received land grants thanks to this special Law, please note the following:

Amédée Kirouack married to Marie-Catherine Gamache from Saint-Eugène de L'Islet,

Louis Kirouack married to Marie-Zélie Blanchette from Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud and

Calixte Kirouack to Clarisse Desharnais from Saint-Médard de Warwick.

The Editors (SOURCE: BANQ)

Photos Given to the Association



Lévesque Family: 1st row: extreme right: Gabrielle Lévesque, Jack Kerouac's mother, 3rd row, at back: 2nd on left: Marie Lydia Lévesque Harpin, 3rd on left: Alexis Harpin and 4th on left: Louis Lévesque, Gabrielle's father. Courtesy of Raymond Harpin and the Lévesque family.



Pierre Lévesque, Louis's father, Gabrielle's grandfather, and Jack Kerouac's great-grandfather. Courtesy of Raymond Harpin and the Lévesque family.



Gabrielle Lévesque, at back on left, next to her is Léo Alcide Kérouac holding either Gérard or Caroline; Alexis Harpin is on the right with a child on his shoulders. Courtesy of Raymond Harpin and the Lévesque family.



GENEALOGY / THE READERS' PAGE

The KFA's computerized genealogical database includes a number of couples where the name of one of the partners is missing.

Answers to the following questions would enable us to complete this data.

You are also invited to consult previous issues of Le Trésor. If you know the answers to any of the questions, please forward them to us and we will publish them in the Readers' Page in future issues.

Thank you very much.

François Kirouac

Question 188

What are the names of the parents of Murielle Fortin, spouse of Raymond Poulin, son of Alphonse Poulin and Jeanne D'Arc Kirouac, daughter of Édouard Kirouac and Alexina Dubé?

Question 189

What are the names of the parents of Louise Lyonnais, spouse of Jacques Poulin, son of Alphonse Poulin and Jeanne d'Arc Kirouac, daughter of Édouard Kirouac and Alexina Dubé?

Question 190

What are the names of the parents of Jim Saindon, spouse of Pamela Kay Kyrouac, daughter of Arthur Leo Kyrouac and Alice Elaine Patterson?

Question 191

What are the names of the parents of Nathalie Gagnon, spouse of Alain Kirouac, son of Paul Kirouac and Pauline Beaudoin?

Question 192

What are the names of the parents of Élise Martin, spouse of Karlheinz

Brénke, son of Raymond Brénke and Hélène Kérouac, daughter of Jean-Charles Kérouac and Rita Moreau?

Question 193

What are the names of the parents of Carol Bélanger, spouse of Sylvie Kirouac, daughter of Gaston Kirouac and Thérèse Lachance?

Question 194

What are the names of the parents of Tim Ogonowski, spouse of Jennifer Ann Kirouac, daughter of Jules Kirouac and Geneviève Lucille Morang?

Question 195

What are the names of the parents of Julie Gouin, spouse of Yvan Kirouac, son of Jean-Guy Kirouac and Jeannette Guay?

Question 196

What are the names of the parents of Marcelle Young, spouse of Léopold Kirouac, son of Téléphore Kirouac and Marie Blais?

Question 197

What are the names of the parents of Dorothee Bengle, spouse of Gontrand Lebel, son of Flavius Lebel and Laura Kirouac?

Question 198

What is the name of the father of Yvan Lizotte, spouse of Ginette Kirouac, daughter of Jean-Baptiste Kirouac and Madeleine Roberge?

Question 199

What is the name of the spouse of Christopher Keroack, son of Alvin Keroack and Mary Phaneuf?

Question 200

What are the names of the parents of Maria Pistorino, spouse of Myles Keroack, son of Alvin Keroack and Mary Phaneuf?

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

The Editorial Team

Question 201

What are the names of the parents of Henrietta Bang, spouse of Eric Keroack, son of Alvin Keroack and Mary Phaneuf?

Question 202

What are the names of the parents of Carol DeRosa, spouse of Brian Keroack, son of Alvin Keroack and Mary Phaneuf?

Question 203

What are the names of the parents of Michaël Payton, spouse of Rhys Keroack, daughter of Alvin Keroack and Mary Phaneuf?

Question 204

What are the names of the parents of Mary Phaneuf, spouse of Alvin Keroack, son of Albert Keroack and Anna Shea?

Question 205

What are the names of the parents of William Keegan, spouse of Eileen Keroack, daughter of Albert Keroack and Anna Shea?

Question 206

What are the names of the parents of Robert Mumford, spouse of Eleonor Keroack, daughter of Albert Keroack and Anna Shea?

Question 207

What are the names of the parents of Anna Shea, spouse of Albert Keroack, son of Octave Keroack and Philomène Gamache?

Question 208

What are the names of the parents of William Breault, spouse of Léone Keroack, daughter of Octave Keroack and Philomène Gamache?

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

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2009 – HAPPY EASTER 2009

ANNUAL K/ FAMILY GATHERING IN CHICOUTIMI 3 - 5 JULY 2009

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