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Number 135



Bulletin of the descendants of d'Alexandre de K/voach  
Witness to Kirouac Activities since 1983



“The Great Lady of Aube-Lumière is no longer”, Marie-Paule Kirouac (1938-2021)  
(Photo: La Tribune de Sherbrooke ©)

## Le Trésor des Kirouac

*Le Trésor des Kirouac*, the bulletin of all the descendants of Alexandre de K/voach, is published in two separate editions: French and English and is distributed to all *AFK/KFA* members. Permission to reproduce an article must be obtained beforehand from *Association des familles Kirouac inc.*, *KFA*, as well as permission from the author of the article.

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## Table of Contents

### Le Trésor des Kirouac n° 135

The President's Word	3
New Honour for Ms. Marie-Audrey Kirouac	4
YOUR ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU	4
Homage to Marie-Paule Kirouac	5
Saul S. d'Avignon, more info: 3 <sup>rd</sup> part and conclusion	7
Jack Kerouac's last trip to Quebec to find His roots by Gabriel Anctil	12
<i>Institut botanique</i> : 100 Years Serving Science and Country	15
New Curator at Marie-Victorin Herbarium Étienne Léveillé-Bourret	16
Ancestry of Sister Marie-Marguerite Kirouac	18
Marie-Marguerite Kirouac, Sister Saint-Pierre-Claver, p.s.s.f.	19
75 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of George & Dorothy Curwick	22
De Kervoach descendant through the female line: Pascal Bérubé	24
Ancestry of Pascal Bérubé	25
De Kervoach descendant through the female line: Dorilda Fortin-Godbout, wife of Quebec's 15 <sup>th</sup> Premier	26
Ancestry of Dorilda Fortin	27
The Short Story of Adélard Godbout's Bust	32
Marie-Victorin's Explorations in Upper-Gaspé by M. A. DeRoy	33
Sad end for a 15-year old boy	36
Edward Sylvester Curwick (1933-2020)	37
Roger Brunelle, R.I.P.	38
In Memoriam	39
Genealogy & Readers' Page	42
KFA Board - 2020-2021	43
Regional Representatives	43
Permanent Committee Members	43

# The President's Word

We start 2021 hoping to say goodbye to the pandemic before the end of the year. Vaccination has started and, if all goes well, Quebec's population should be immunized by next autumn. However, between now and then, there are so many unknowns. Therefore, in view of the uncertainty, the general consensus of the KFA board members is to cancel our annual gathering for a second year in a row. Common sense dictates that it is unwise for a large group to gather within closed spaces.

This decision also affects the Annual General Meeting and the election to the Board. As we did last year, the administrative reports will be printed in the next *Trésor*, no. 136, and you will be able to send in your questions and/or comments in writing by email or regular post.

## *It is a Date: Let's Meet in 2022!*

### **Board Election**

Last year, according to KFA regulations, two mandates were renewed for two years: Marie Kirouac and René Kirouac. Jean-Louis Kérrouac's mandate was also for two years. This time, four mandates have to be renewed for two years: Céline Kirouac, Mercédès Bolduc, Marc Villeneuve, and myself. There are still two vacant Board

positions, so, please do not hesitate to join our team. Simply send us an email.

### ***Le Trésor des Kirouac***

As you will see in the present bulletin, the pandemic has no negative effect on those working on *Le Trésor*. Quite the opposite. It is always a pleasure to present stories about Kirouacs. One regular collaborator, André St-Arnaud, keeps successfully digging and always finds new interesting descendants through the female lines.

### **Occasional Collaborators**

An occasional collaborator can be anyone, anytime, a one-time-only contribution about a relative, a subject, something found in the media, as you read newspapers, an article, old or new, photos, document, concerning a family member or someone related to the Kirouacs.

How about getting out the famous shoe-box full of family photos, or a larger box, where contracts, letters, diplomas might be unearthed. So many memorabilia can be the starting point of a family story. This makes the *Trésor des Kirouac* all the more interesting for everyone, not only KFA members but many more people who enjoy reading about the descendants of Alexandre de Kervoach.



Photo: François Kirouac collection

If you are young, youngish, why not take time to ask old, or older, relatives? How did they live through various hard times and trials in their life. What did they do in their spare time? Be a witness to a bygone era. Don't hesitate. Get going! Join the *Trésor* team as regular or occasional partner or to study a particular subject related to the Kirouacs. And, remember, we are there to help you if you need it and wish it.

### **Renewal of your membership for 2021**

If you have not yet done so, please send your membership fee to the treasurer for 2021, to make sure to receive the next issue of our family encyclopedia.

Please note that we are still working to soon make electronic payment possible from the KFA's website.

# Another Honour for Marie-Audrey Kirouac

Last autumn, in *Le Trésor*, number 134, page 9, we were proud to let you know that the daughter of Christian and Doris (Côté) Kirouac, granddaughter of Bruno and Gisèle (Bergeron) Kirouac, had won a Scholarship from **Association de planification fiscale et financière (APFF) (Tax & Financial Planning Association)**. Her subject was: *Analysis of the rules of eligibility for federal fiscal taxation adopted in 2019 and eligibility of La Presse, Montreal's daily.*

Her Master's thesis has garnered a second honour from the CTF. The **Canadian Tax Foundation** announced that Marie-Audrey Kirouac is the winner of the **CTF-Osler Hoskin Harcourt** prize for Quebec for the best text written by a student in 2018-2019. Her text was selected from all those submitted by students across Canada.

Each year the **Canadian Tax Foundation** offers up to four regional prizes for the best students' texts. According to the merit of the texts submitted, a prize is attributed in each of the four Canadian regions: in the Maritimes, the CTF-McInnes Cooper; in Quebec, the CTF-Osler Hoskin & Harcourt; in Ontario, the CTF-Fasken Martineau DuMoulin; and in Western Canada, the CTF-Foundation Bert Wolfe Nitikman.

With a Bachelor of Law and a Master in Notarial Law, Marie-Audrey was interested in taxation early on. She worked for Revenue Quebec right after earning her degree, and did so for two years until she started her studies for a Master in Taxation at Sherbrooke University in 2018-2019. With this background knowledge and experience, she was hired by PwC a year ago. At Price Waterhouse Coopers she is a first counsellor in taxation. She also looks after special reorganization mandates and requests for government incentives.

**Congratulations to Marie-Audrey!**



The editor

## YOUR ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU

### One Regional Representative/Correspondent for Montréal, Outaouais, Abitibi One Regional Representative/Correspondent for Mauricie, Bois-Francs, Eastern-Townships



Functions:

- Promote the Association to relatives and friends;
- Once a year, help with upgrading the regional membership list; encourage people to renew their membership and inspire others to join;
- Suggest and/or organize a gathering in one's area and collaborate with the KFA board member responsible for such gathering;
- Look out for notices, newspaper articles about K descendants achievements in one's area.

### KFA BOARD MEMBERS (Two vacant posts)

Functions:

- Take part in 2 or 3 annual board meetings to administer the KFA's activities and assets;
- Carry out occasional function suggested by the Board or a board member related to KFA's goals.

To propose your candidacy: please contact: [association@familleskirouac.com](mailto:association@familleskirouac.com)

# HOMAGE TO MARIE-PAULE KIROUAC

**M**arie-Paule was born in 1938 at Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard, L'Islet County. She was the sixth child of Armand Kirouac, general merchant, and his wife, Marie-Ange Couillard-Després. René, our KFA treasurer, was the last born of the nine children.

Marie-Paule always had good grades in school. She completed a course in family economy, and she taught this course to high-school level boys and girls for twenty-five years.

Curious by nature, she kept studying and earned a Bachelor's degree in 1979, and a Master's from the Department of Education at Sherbrooke University in 1990. During her graduate studies, Marie-Paule received the Hilroy Scholarship, a merit-based grant created especially with the *aim to encourage and reward teachers' initiative in class. This project also aims directly at instituting new teaching methods to create better education methods.*<sup>1</sup>

Her research was entitled: *Conception and experimentation of a new pedagogical method to teach family economy in second year high-school.*

Of course, this opened new employment possibilities to her, including teaching sexual education to high-school students. So, the Department of Education at Sherbrooke University hired her to train teachers specialized in family economy. She did so for some years. The faculty recognized her contribution in this specialized field by naming her Ambassador in 2004. Marie-Paule's photo is in the Education Faculty's Hall of Fame (*Galerie du rayonnement*) inaugurated in 2008.<sup>2</sup>

In 2009, among many candidates, Marie-Paule was chosen by the Quebec business women's network (RFAQ, i.e., Réseau des femmes d'affaires du Québec), to receive their award in the category: *manager, executive or professional employed by a not-for-profit organization.* She was proud to accept it as she was General Director of **Maison Aube-Lumière**, a residence providing palliative care to cancer patients; And she was the only candidate from the Eastern Townships in that category.

We are so grateful to Marie-Paule for organizing the 2010 KFA annual gathering in Sherbrooke. At the end of a wonderful weekend, Jacques Kirouac, our founding president, said to me that it was one of the best KFA gatherings. That weekend there were many memorable moments: sharing meals, the guided tours with local actors, the special Saturday dinner at the Sacred-Heart Sanctuary at Beauvoir, and the Sunday morning Mass outdoors were much appreciated by all who took part. Many photos taken then are available on the KFA website<sup>3</sup>.

From 1997 to 2013, Marie-Paule was the General Director of **Maison Aube-Lumière**, whose mission is: *To welcome, free of charge, people in final phase of cancer and provide them with the best quality palliative care available; accompany them and their relatives with spiritual and psychological assistance, as well as medical aid; contribute to the teaching of palliative care*<sup>4</sup>.

Of all her life's achievements, this was one she was most proud of. In 1997, this not-for-profit organization acquired the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament's old monastery, located at 220 Kennedy North Street in Sherbrooke. However, as needs kept increasing, a new larger building was



Marie-Paule Kirouac (1938-2021)  
(Photo: Ivan Lessard)

required and planned. Thus, Marie-Paule started fundraising. She contacted important regional company managers, among them the Lemaire brothers, owners of *Cascades Paper Company*, with headquarters in Kingsey-Falls, and the *J.-A. Bombardier Foundation*, which generously contributed to the fund. There was nothing stopping her. She was most likely inspired by three words now engraved on a wall at the front of the new home: *Amour Douceur Sérénité*, i.e., Love, Kindness, Serenity. She managed to raise all the money for the project, nearly \$1,400,000.(Can.) The new building is located at 3071, 12th Avenue North, very close to the CHUS, e.g., Sherbrooke University Hospital, known as CHUS. It can accommodate a dozen patients in life's final phase.

<sup>1</sup> <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED120157.pdf>, pp. 10-11.

<sup>2</sup> This hall of fame is in the Education Pavilion at Sherbrooke University.

<sup>3</sup> <http://familleskirouac.com/photos/rassemblements/sherbrooke/sherbrooke2010.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://aubelumiere.com/la-maison/>



1<sup>st</sup> September 2012, Marie-Paule Kirouac on the work-site during the construction of the new **La Maison Aube-Lumière** in Sherbrooke, Quebec. (Photo: René Kirouac)

Professionally, Marie-Paule had a very full and fulfilling life<sup>5</sup>. Her personal life was no less fulfilling. She took care of her family: her partner, Jacques Codère; her sons François and Ivan; her grandchildren: Étienne, Évelyne, Sophie and Ariane; her brothers and sisters-in-law, her sisters and brothers-in-law. She was one of nine siblings, and family was very important to her. We certainly saw that at the 2010 KFA gathering. Marie-Paule was happy and proud to meet us all, and at the same time, to make sure we would all discover and love Sherbrooke, the city, its history and citizens.

Marie-Paule died on 6 January 2021 at the Maison Aube-Lumière, surrounded by her nearest and dearest. In a way, she was returning home, this home she worked so hard to see built. ... She was a passionate woman with a most generous heart. She never did anything halfway. It was all or nothing. She was an example of courage and perseverance for us all.

Dear Marie-Paule, we are so grateful that you have been part of our lives.

Sylvie Houde, René's partner and Marie-Paule's sister-in-law.

**Sources:** Extra info and suggestions added by Marie-Paule's partner, Jacques Codère, her son, François, and her brother, René.

<sup>5</sup> In her lifetime, Marie-Paule received many testimonies of gratitude for her various accomplishments. For the purpose of the present article, we are listing only the most important ones.



Marie-Paule Kirouac was the Director General of **La Maison Aube-Lumière** from 1997 to 2013.  
(Photo: La Tribune, Sherbrooke newspaper ©)

*Greatness and Misery on an American Navy Veteran*

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

## Complementary information about a fascinating man

*Report prepared by René Kirouac (from Saint-Constant)*

*In the last two editions of *Le Trésor*<sup>1</sup>, first, we described the enrolment of Saul S. D'Avignon, son of Josephine Kerouack, in the American Navy during the First World War and his subsequent 27-year battle to have his service records rectified. Next, we examined his illusory belief in the title of Count D'Avignon, fostered and misled by the Count de Morant, a French genealogist.*

*In this third article, we present complementary information provided by Paul R. Keroack, from Collegeville, Pennsylvania<sup>2</sup>. After reading our first article, Paul kindly offered to share the results of his extended research on this unusual personage.*

*The author of the current account is very thankful to him and is fully responsible for selecting, interpreting and organizing the various elements provided by Paul Keroack.*

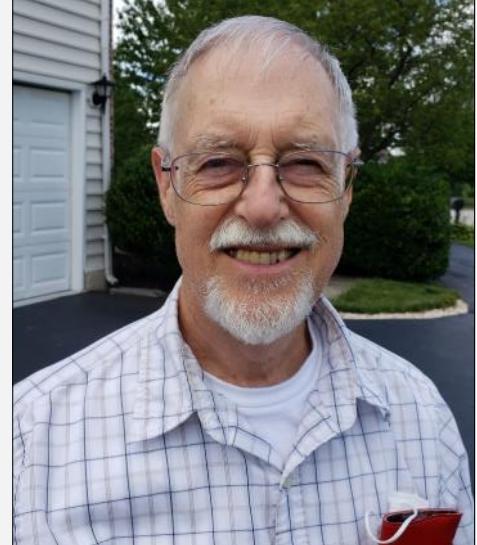
### Saul's parents

Louis B. [Bruno] Davignon was the younger son of a Quebec family which first emigrated to Buffalo, N.Y., and after returning to Quebec where Louis was born on 14 July 1861, they returned to Buffalo, followed in 1870, by a transfer to Wauregan, a hamlet within the town of Plainfield, Conn.

Josephine Kerouack (**GFK 00049**), born 28 Feb. 1867, was an elder daughter in a large family which emigrated from Quebec to northern New York state, then to Connecticut around 1880. At the time, many of Josephine's brothers were employed at the Wauregan Mill, as was Louis Davignon and a

**Paul Raymond Keroack**  
(GFK 00067)

Like Saul D'Avignon, Paul was born in Norwich, Conn. His grandfather, Dennis Keroack, was first cousin to Saul's mother, Josephine Kerouack. Living in the same neighbourhood, these ancestors got to know each other. When he was a child, Paul heard about Count D'Avignon from family members. However, he never met him as he was only five years old when the "Count" died. Wanting to find out more about the personage, drew him to some serious research. Very keen on genealogy, he searched through municipal directories, local newspapers, national censuses, and web sites like Ancestry.com, familysearch.org, etc.



He questioned direct and indirect witnesses, on the Keroack and Davignon sides as well as members of Saul's wife's family. In 1984, he wrote a letter to the editor of a Norwich paper asking for people who knew him to provide information. This is how he contacted Gertrude O'Connell, a first cousin to Saul, who provided Paul with interesting notes. The results of Paul's work reveal how it is still possible to find biographical clues and facts about people of that era. Here are some of his findings.

A retired librarian, Paul has been a long-time member of the *French-Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut*, and has written many articles for the society's bulletin, the *Connecticut Maple Leaf* about his Quebec ancestry as well as other families who emigrated to Connecticut from Quebec. He also researched the Irish ancestry of his mother's family.

few of his own brothers. Louis and Josephine got married in Plainfield on 15 September 1885. In spite of the fact that Louis had converted to Protestantism like his elder brother Nelson W. Deveneau (born Narcisse Davignon), the marriage, nevertheless, was held in a Catholic church, and Josephine remained a Catholic.

<sup>1</sup> Editions 133 and 134.

<sup>2</sup> We are also using some newspaper clippings provided by Greg Kyrouac, to whom we are thankful.

Between 1886 and 1900, the couple had seven children; the first three were born in Wauregan between 1886 and 1888, the four others in the Greeneville neighbourhood of Norwich<sup>3</sup>, located fifteen miles south of Wauregan, where Louis and Josephine moved around 1891, as had before them Josephine's father and a few of her brothers. Except for Saul, born in 1896, and Samuel in 1900, all the other children died in infancy.

In Norwich, Louis obtained employment as a trolley driver for the Norwich Street Railway Company, a job he held for eleven years. In 1900, his spine was injured after falling from a trolley roof while repairing a trolley arm. After a partial recovery, he returned to work, but soon was unable to continue. His spinal problem lasted a year and a half and he was bedridden for the last seven months. He died on 3 November 1903 at the age of 42.

Josephine brought Saul, aged 7, and Samuel, aged 3, to live with her at her father's home in Greeneville where other family members also lived. Eventually, mother and sons moved to Moosup, a village in the town of Plainfield where Samuel died of polio at age 5. Many of Josephine's family members lived in surrounding industrial towns. Josephine had three sisters and five brothers who married. It was one of Saul's aunts, Denise Helene, Josephine's sister, who is believed to have paid for the studies of Saul at the seminary in Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec<sup>4</sup>.

Josephine worked as a housekeeper in well-to-do homes and in Catholic presbyteries. For instance, in the 1920 census, she is mentioned in Voluntown, Conn., a few miles from Moosup. She was housekeeper to the parish priest Ludovic Paradis and resided at the presbytery of St-Thomas parish. Later in 1926, Josephine Davignon, aged 59, an

American citizen, is listed on the passenger list of the SS Paris<sup>5</sup>, a ship sailing from France and docking in the port of New York on 20 October 1926. Her address was mentioned as "c/o Boisson at Norwich, Conn.<sup>6</sup> On the same ship, were also registered as foreign passengers<sup>7</sup> Robert Boisson<sup>8</sup>, aged 35, "manufacturer", his wife Gabrielle and their two children. The Boisson family and Josephine, their cook<sup>9</sup>, were returning to the USA from a trip to Lyon, France. Since Josephine spoke French, although she had duties, the experience was probably enjoyable.

In the 1931 town directory, Josephine is listed as living at 46 Central Avenue, and in 1933, at 11 11th Street. Both addresses are in Greeneville, a neighbourhood of Norwich.

The premature death of her husband and of all her children, except for Saul, without doubt generated a strong bond between mother and son. In fact, Saul's permanent address before his military service in 1917 was his mother's. Later, beginning in the 1930s, Josephine lived with Saul and his wife Thyra; sometimes, the trio lived at the couple's address, sometime at the mother's.

### Saul's adolescence

Two newspaper clippings submitted by Greg Kyrouac tell us a bit more about Saul Davignon's teenage years. Aged 15, Saul attended Plainfield High School in September 1911. The Freshman class elected him their president<sup>10</sup>, which shows some leadership. Then, in 1914, almost 18, he sang in a two-act operetta entitled *Le tambour major*<sup>11</sup>, (in French in the text). He played the role of Jean. It was produced for the formal opening of Saint-Joseph Hall, located in the new All Hallow's parish school building<sup>12</sup>. He obviously had some singing and acting talents. We already know, from a previous article<sup>13</sup>, that he also studied at the St-Hyacinthe Seminary, maybe in 1915-1916.



Joséphine Kerouack and her son,  
Saul Samuel D'Avignon

<sup>3</sup>Namely Saul Samuel in 1896, Noël "Newell" Nelson in 1897, Josephine in 1899 and Napoleon (later altered after his death to Samuel Saul) in 1900. The boy's death record names him Samuel.

<sup>4</sup>According to Gertrude Fournier O'Connell, Letter to Paul R. Keroack, April 18, 1990, page 2.

<sup>5</sup>The SS Paris is a French transatlantic liner, a sister-ship of the SS France. Flagship of the Compagnie générale transatlantique; however, her 18-year career evolved in the shadow of the latter. When the refurbishing of the SS Paris was completed in 1921, it became the largest liner operating under the French flag.

<sup>6</sup>The Boisson family lived at 19 East Town Street, Norwich, Conn., from about 1924 until 1929.

<sup>7</sup>Non-American citizens.

<sup>8</sup>Mr. Boisson immigrated to the USA in 1917, after completing his military service in the French army, where he lost his left arm in the Battle of the Somme (1916). He was sent to the USA to be industrial plant superintendent at the J.B. Martin Velvet Mills in Taftville and in Norwich, a firm founded in Lyon, France. The Boisson family made several return trips to France during the 1920s, including the one in 1926 mentioned here.

<sup>9</sup>This is the main occupation mentioned in the letter from Gertrude O'Connell to Paul R. Keroack, 18 April 1984, page 2.

<sup>10</sup>Cited in the Evening Bulletin, Providence, Rhode Island, 30 September 1911, p. 8.

<sup>11</sup>We have found nothing about this operetta on Internet.

Before enrolling in the U.S. Navy in **1917**, we know Saul worked as an electrician for the American Brass Co., in Waterbury, Conn. An undated article<sup>14</sup> from an unidentified publication mentions that, while waiting for orders to leave Moosup and join a military training station, Saul Degivneau (sic) had worked for some time at the American Woolen Co. Evidently, he was a man of many talents!

### Saul and Baseball

According to an article published in the Norwich Bulletin at the occasion of his return from the Navy to his mother's home in Moosup, Saul D'Avignon "was well known as a baseball player in the Summer of **1915**"<sup>15</sup>. We know he was about to join the Eastern League when he enlisted in the Navy in the spring of **1917** and he kept on playing in the military training camps.

Right after the war, we find him as the leading pitcher of the Rhode Island State League. In October **1920**, he is part of the lineup of Billy Liberty's team, the All Stars. The Norwich Bulletin announced an upcoming match opposing the All Stars and the ex-servicemen of the American Legion of Stonington, Conn.<sup>16</sup>

Finally, in the **1940** census, to the question "what would your ideal job be?", Saul's answer was "sports coach." It is most probably in the baseball teams that he had found his happiest moments.

### Saul's wife, Thyra Kell

Her full name was Tyra (or Thyra) Josephina Kjell. She was born on 9 April 1890<sup>17</sup> in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her older sister, Stella (Anna Stina), was born in the same city on 6 March 1887. They were the daughters of Johan August Kjell and Amalia Persson, from Lidkoping, Sweden, an inland city not far from the port of Gothenburg (Göteborg).

Thyra's mother returned to Sweden at the beginning of the 20th century; she settled not far from Göteborg<sup>18</sup>. Thyra also moved to Sweden and, on 21 December 1913, she married Gustaf Ludwig Levander. He died on 20 October 1918. Thyra then came back to the United States on 18 December 1919 and lived in New York City with her sister and married Axel Liss, a chauffeur living in Queens, NYC. According to the 1920 census, Thyra lived with the Rufus E. Smith family, also in Queens, NYC. Smith was a wholesale egg and butter merchant. "Thyra Levanda", age 29, is named as "maid" but her duties are described as "manager, St Oil\*". It is unclear what that function is, but Smith's adult son and daughter-in-law are also listed as managers of aspects of his business. (\*St Oil supplies industrial oils to companies, as found on the internet.).

### Saul and Thyra

Saul D'Avignon married Thyra Kell in New York City on 29 April 1922. In the **1920s**, Saul takes interest in the real estate sector. The state of Florida was experiencing an unprecedented development, where speculation, easy

<sup>12</sup> Cited in the Moosup Morning Bulletin, Norwich, Conn., 24 April 1914, page 3.

<sup>13</sup> See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, no. 133, page 37.

<sup>14</sup> Clearly in the spring of 1917.

<sup>15</sup> Norwich Bulletin, 12 July 1919, page 14. Article submitted both by Greg and Paul.

<sup>16</sup> Norwich Bulletin, 16 October 1920, page 3. Article submitted both by Greg and Paul.

<sup>17</sup> Information found in her first marriage's certificate, as well as on her death certificate (1965). The official copy was signed by her sister, Stella K. Liss, which was examined by Paul R. Keroack.

<sup>18</sup> She will live into the 1930s.

### ERRATUM AND COMMENTS

About the article entitled "The Path of Saul S, D'Avignon, part two", published in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 134, Paul R. Keroack, from Collegeville, Pennsylvania, has submitted the following three observations, for which we are thankful.

**Page 48, note 2:** should read to Paul Keroack, and not "Pierre".

**Page 49, "Paternal Ancestry of Saul D'Avignon". Generation 4, Édouard Davignon.** Date of death should read 1897 (we had indicated: "between 1887 and 1899"). Source: Collection Drouin Institute: Methodist Church, Bedford, Missisquoi; "Edward Deveneau died on November 7, 1897, was buried on November 9, Bedford [Protestant] cemetery", image 15/20. It is easy to understand that the "Deveneau" patronymic escaped the search.

**Page 49, last sentence of François Kirouac's note:** "If he (the Earl of Morant) had carried out this research in the parish registers of the time, he would have easily realized that almost all of Saul D'Avignon's ancestors until the first of the name arrived in New France were noble colonists." The use of the word "noble" joined to the word "colonists" may have created some confusion. Let's say the word "noble" is used in a humorous way, witticism, and not in reference to a social class. Also, the parish registers mentioned are those covering the periods after the ancestor's arrival in North America.

The Editor



Saul S. D'Avignon and his wife, Thyra Kell  
(Photo: Paul R. Keroack collection)

access to credit and fast growth of property value were interacting. Saul invited his cousin Napoleon A. Keroack<sup>19</sup>, a prosperous grocer in Connecticut, to invest. Unfortunately, around 1925, the expected clients who could buy properties did not show up as hoped for, and the Florida land boom of the 1920s turns out to be a disaster for many investors, including Saul and Napoleon, who, by 1927, have lost their money.

In 1929, as seen in our first article, Saul and Thyra sail from Copenhagen to New York. Paul R. Keroack's research found something odd. In the Swedish Emigration Records, Saul S. "Avignon" is reported having left Göteborg, Sweden, on 26 March 1929, but the same day their ship leaves Copenhagen, Denmark, for NYC. This would imply that he would have covered the distance between the Swedish and the Danish cities on the same day. Perhaps the exit document from Sweden was created in Copenhagen? An undated

article published in the *Norwich Bulletin*, entitled Norwich boasts of a full-fledged French Count<sup>20</sup> mentions that "the count spent a year in Europe for his health, stopping at Oslo, Norway, Sweden, Copenhagen, Denmark and other places..."

1930 was the heart of the great Depression. That year, the U.S. federal census shows the couple living in Manhattan, in a rooming house located at 117 61st Street, West. Their names and data were misspelled as follows: "De Avigny, Sol, age 34, b. Connecticut, watchman, building; and De Avigny, Tyra, age 38, b. NY, (sic) parents Swedish."

In 1934, in the Norwich directory, we find Saul Davignon at 351 Central Avenue. He shares this address with P. H. Ethier, grocer, and M. Snider, butcher. On the same street, at number 357 lived his great-uncle Napoleon Kéroack. As we can see, Saul and his wife often moved from one address to another, sometimes within the same town.

In 1938, the *Norwich Bulletin* between June 8 & 22, published a series of articles about a legal affair concerning our man. (June 8) "Count D'Avignon is allowed to leave jail by order of Judge Ernest C. Simpson after promising to appear in court Friday for a contempt hearing [he was accused of] obstructing the right of way of the property of Paul Massey of Stonington<sup>21</sup>, by his own admission ... He explained that he did not think the summons was proper as it was signed only by the clerk and not by the judge as was necessary in New York State which laws he was familiar with. The judge commented that he should get used to the laws of Connecticut... As the count left the courtroom, he kissed jailer William Enos in the French fashion on both cheeks, thanking him for courtesies extended to him while in jail. (June 11) "Judge extends time for count to obtain counsel. The judge suggested he remove chained gate. He had been jailed four days." (June 16) "Count says he is now living in Norwich as it is too dangerous for him to live in Salem on his farm. He had been shot at and two bullet holes were found in his mailbox." (June 22) "Contempt charges were dropped after plaintiff's lawyer reported that barrier has been removed." Definitely not an indication of good neighbourly practices!

In 1940, the national census damages the reputation of our man. According to Paul R. Keroack's observations, the details could very well have been transmitted, at least in part, by a neighbour during the absence of the occupants of Royal Heights. Count d'Avignon ("Caunt A. D'Avignon") is described as a "fugitive from justice, warrant out for his arrest." The same was written for "Mrs. D'Avignon."

We also learn that Saul D'Avignon would have operated a Summer camp in Salem, which was corroborated by Gertrude O'Connell. Then, in a later corrected entry for the same census, we find a description of his work clearly as a "social investigator," working "house to house,"

<sup>19</sup> Great-uncle of Paul R. Keroack.

<sup>20</sup> Most likely published after 1934, after the certification issued by Count de Morant.

<sup>21</sup> A place located 30 miles from Salem.

for the WPA (Works Progress Administration) a federal program.

We know the rest. On First November **1941**, Saul, his wife and his mother are evicted from Royal Heights, presumably because of unpaid debts, possibly taxes. On 30 March **1942**, Saul appears before a notary public to appoint Myer Schwolsky, manager of the U.S. Veteran's Hospital, Newington, Conn., as his attorney with full power and authority. Was this the result of incapacity to manage his own affairs due to sickness or to general incompetence?

In **1942**, Saul lives at his mother's place with Thyra, at 16½ South C Street, Taftville, Conn., a mill village in Norwich, just north of Greeneville. To comply with the new government requirements decreed on 27 April 1942, he registers for the draft in 1942 on the military lists of men aged 45 to 64 years<sup>22</sup>. Still at the same address, in **1944** he worked as a weaver at Ponemah Mill. While Josephine remained on South C Street, the couple distances itself and live at the Ponemah House, a nearby rooming house at 2 South 2nd Avenue, Taftville. They will officially live there until Saul's death.

However, according to Gertrude O'Connell's testimony<sup>23</sup>, Saul would have been placed, at Thyra's request and maybe without his own consent, in the care of the Norwich State Hospital, located in the town of Preston. This institution offered different services, including help for the needy or people with mental problems and requiring long-term care<sup>24</sup>. Even though his official address is still the one in Taftville, Saul died at that hospital "after an illness of some duration"<sup>25</sup>, on 22

June 1949. On the death certificate, the cause mentioned is cardiac failure and general paresis\*. He was buried as a "pauper"<sup>26</sup> in the family burial plot located behind Sacred Heart Church, Brooklyn, Conn., across the river from the town of Plainfield (which includes the villages of Wauregan and Moosup). (\*muscular weakness caused by nerve damage or disease; partial paralysis)

Following her husband's death, Thyra rented an apartment at 15 Main Street, in Norwich city centre, and earned money as a dressmaker. She lived there until 1965. That year, she died in a nursing home.

We must admit that even if we have learned more about the life of Saul S. D'Avignon in this third article, there still remain some questions and gray areas concerning this enigmatic and interesting personage.

<sup>22</sup> Such requirement already prevailed since 1940 for men aged less than 45.

<sup>23</sup> Letter to Paul R. Keroack, 12 May 1984, page 3. "His wife had him committed."

<sup>24</sup> The State registers for residents of this institution are not yet public, except for direct descendants of deceased people. This explains why we cannot yet validate this information, which, however, appears very plausible.

<sup>25</sup> Norwich Bulletin, 23 June 1949.

<sup>26</sup> Letter from Gertrude O'Connell to Paul R. Keroack, 1 June 1984, page 1.



### Davignon or D'Avignon? Origin and Spelling

**Origins.** It is easy (maybe too easy) to imagine that the Davignon name originally come from the Provencal city of Avignon famous for its bridge and the popes who resided there. This seems most likely; however, we have not looked further into the matter.

Our correspondent Paul R. Keroack refers to the website -prdh-igd.com, # 24717-, which mentions that the immigrant Francois Davignon Beauregard was born about 1686 in "France indéterminée", which means, somewhere in France, exact location unknown. Thus, the difficulty of finding precisely the ancestor's region of origin in France.

**Spelling.** As it is common for patronymics throughout the years, spelling of family names vary, due to involuntary mistakes or voluntary changes. Among the different spellings that we have observed in preparing these articles, we have noticed the following forms: Avignon, Davignon, D'avignon, D. Avignon, De Avignon, De Avigny and even Degivneau (this appeared only once probably resulting from a typographical error in an article in the *Norwich Bulletin*, most likely intended to be Devigneau).

# Jack Kerouac's last trip to Quebec – the story finally told

## Gabriel Anctil

published in *Le Devoir*, 31 December 2020

### PRESENTATION

Last spring 2020, I wrote an article about Jack Kerouac's great interest in his French-Canadian origins and the Rivière-du-Loup area. After reading my article published in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, and given his great interest for Jack, Gabriel Anctil contacted me saying he wished to further investigate Jack's trip to Quebec. His efforts made it possible to find out a bit more and we take great pleasure to offer you the result of his research as published in *Le Devoir* (a Montreal daily), in French under the title: "Le dernier voyage de Jack Kerouac au Québec enfin raconté" on 31 December 2020.

The *Trésor* editorial team is very grateful to Gabriel Anctil for granting us permission to reprint his article as well as the photos illustrating it. His collaboration is much appreciated.

You may remember that the late Jacques Kirouac and I first met Gabriel Anctil in May 2014 (see *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 116, p. 6) when he was preparing a series for Radio-Canada to underline the 45th anniversary of the death of our Franco-American "cousin". The four-broadcasts are available on our KFA website at:

[http://familleskirouac.com/  
jack\\_kerouac/JackKerouac.html](http://familleskirouac.com/jack_kerouac/JackKerouac.html)

François Kirouac



Jack Kerouac in his bedroom in Northport, Long Island, in 1964. Note the crucifix and rosary on the wall at the head of his bed. (Photo: Jerry Bauer, courtesy of Gerald Nicosia)

In August 1967, Jack Kerouac, is 45 years old and burnt out. Alcoholic and exhausted, he is but the shadow of the young flamboyant writer at the height of literary glory when his famous *On the Road* was published ten years before. (*Sur la route*, published by Edition Gallimard, France).

Nonetheless, there is still life beating inside his worn-out body and it still drives him to an ultimate goal, two years before dying, he must leave Lowell - his native town where, for the last few months, he was living again - and hit the road to reach Quebec, his ancestors' homeland, his ultimate road trip, his last dive into the innards of his America.

About this legendary trip, we only know the outline. Ignored or barely mentioned by most specialists, the longest text about this crazy spin was written by Gerald Nicosia, covering only half a page in *Memory Babe* (French edition - Québec Amérique), the impressive 700-page biography he wrote and published in 1983.

Nicosia explains that Jack's TV interview at *Le sel de la semaine*, on Radio-Canada (French-speaking CBC), on 7 March 1967, revived his interest for his French-Canadian origins and he wanted to go to Quebec to discover more about his family history.

Well, now, 53 years after he was driving along the Saint-Lawrence, it is finally possible to tell what the roaming writer saw and lived; his vague project in mind was to transform his experience into a novel.

### **Hit the road, Jack**

Most details about this road trip were revealed by Joseph Chaput, who accompanied Kerouac in this adventure. We were able to listen to a series of interviews he gave to Gerald Nicosia in 1978; these make up sixty pages. There is also a video made by his family in 1979 where he describes his

experience with Jack. All these documents are in English.

So according to Chaput's story, the two great friends leave Lowell in a large elegant white Plymouth Fury that Joe, 49 at the time, will drive all the way.

Sitting beside him, Jack, who never owned a driver's license in his life, drinks from a bottle of brandy, which he shares with his driver, whose grandparents had also emigrated from Quebec and settled in Lowell.

Further along the road on Interstate 95, once it was dark, the two happy-go-lucky pals, alternating from French to English, suddenly realize that they missed an exit and are near the town of Mexico in Maine, far from their original itinerary. There Chaput, not paying much attention to the road, ends up in a ditch: "I squashed my torso against the wheel and had painful ribs for the next three days."

They were lost but found a hotel for the night. "It was around 11 p.m. I was dead beat but Jack was full of energy and headed straight for the hotel bar. He started talking with the many locals present. Soon he became the centre of interest. Around 1 a.m., I could not stay up anymore and went to bed. But Jack carried on yapping away. Then he explained to me that he had so much energy because he had been downing speeds (amphetamines) since the morning!"

In a letter Kerouac wrote on 4 October 1967 to Youenn Gwernig, the Breton poet and musician exiled in New York, a close friend of his during the last three years of his life, he describes the trip and shows his knowledge of Quebec's latest news like never before: "In all the motels where we stopped in Quebec, the locals feared the name Chaput because the leader of the Quebec Liberation movement was

Marcel Chaput who was an uncle (albeit a distant one, but of the same family . . . And we did party like hell!"

These wonderful letters, mainly written in English, with passages in jous (Quebec's jargon), in Breton, and in French, were published for the first time in their entirety in 2016 in the book *Sad Paradise (Locus Solus)*, by René Tangy. A nearly unknown document in Quebec.

### More about the trip

They end up in a bar in Rivière-du-Loup where Kerouac, tipsy, criticizes the way one of the customers speaks French! "Insulted the guy walks out warning that he is coming back with a friend who can lift cars with his arms and that they will beat them up" remembers Chaput. We ran away as fast as we could, laughing." Joe Chaput, who died in 1985, a WWII hero and former boxing champion, was an unofficial bodyguard to Jack who had a certain talent for creating havoc everywhere he went drinking.

The second day of this jolly trip, Jack and Joe stopped at Caribou, in Maine, for a few drinks, before reaching Rivière-du-Loup, and as Jack wrote to his Breton friend: they slept in a "super motel", called Le manoir du domaine (the domain's manor house), owned by a Mr. Dumont and his charming wife. There was a crazy farmer who kept coming back to drink with me – I was bare feet most of the time – and he told me that his name was "Michaud quand qu'y est pas chaud!"\* I thought he was great!" They slept three nights at Rivière-du-Loup.

The following day, they walked in the countryside just outside the town. "The next morning, I asked Jack if he wanted to see the town's archives or the parish archives, as planned; says Chaput but Jack simply answered, "Let's have a drink first!" "Finally, adds Chaput, we never went to the archives. Jack said we could come back and go some other time. The following day, we left the area and hit the road to go to Montreal."

\*Editor's note: this is a play on words: Michaud is a family surname but mi-chaud means half hot, but in Quebec 'chaud' also means drunk, in other words the farmer was saying that even when not drunk he was still Michaud.



Joe Chaput (left) in 1969, WWII hero and former boxing champion, was Jack's bodyguard, as Jack was infamous for creating havoc wherever he went drinking. (Photo: Courtesy of Terri Chaput Levine)

Determined to visit Expo 67, the year's greatest attraction, the two tourists take highway 132 where they pick up two young ladies, about 18 or 19, who are going there to and are extremely impressed to meet the legendary Jack Kerouac.

The wanderers leave the two women at Lévis and drive to take the ferry to cross the river to Quebec City. But as the ferry is only leaving in about 15 to 20 minutes, Jack suggest to go for a drink at the nearby tavern by the waterfront. There they meet five or six sailors from an English boat, so end up spending two days gallivanting in Lévis; hence they never crossed the river to go to Quebec City.

### Return trip to Lowell

From Lévis, Jack and Joe hit the road back to Lowell, stopping one night in the Beauce area, most likely at Saint-Georges, where of course, they hit the bottle.

Ti-Jean, as he was affectionately called by his parents, will have spent eight days and seven nights on this *road trip*, during which time he was deep into the Quebec where his mother and father were born; a Quebec that Jack idealized for so long, Jack who spoke only French during the first six years of his life and who wrote only two short novels in his mother tongue.

To his Breton friend he wrote: When I got back home, I had so many funny French stories to tell *Mémère* [Gabrielle, his mother], that she nearly fell off her rocker."

### WITNESSES OF KEROUAC'S PASSAGE

Jack and Joe, when describing this memorable voyage, did not mention their most important stop, the key visit they made at Saint-Hubert, about 40 kilometres south of Rivière-du-Loup, where Jack's



Hôtel & Motel du Domaine at Rivière-du-Loup, Quebec where Jack Kerouac stayed in August 1967. (Photo: courtesy of Audrey Dumont)

father, Léo-Alcide, was born in 1889, at 132 chemin Taché Ouest (Taché Road West). The patriarch left that village, only a few months old, when his family immigrated to Nashua, New Hampshire.

Indeed, thanks to François Kirouac, president of the *Kirouac Family Association* who was the first one to mention this meeting, we were able to put together this flash visit.

"My grandfather, Joseph Soucy, often told me about meeting Jack Kerouac," explains Pierre Soucy, who was born in August 1967. "He used to tell me that Kerouac stopped at the general store, and that he was sent to the Garage Soucy, where he spoke with my grandfather who owned it. He, in turn, directed him to his brother's house, René Soucy's house."

Florent Soucy, aged 22 then, lived across the garage and while having lunch saw through the window a white car with a Massachusetts plate parking there and stay for about thirty minutes. "As soon as the car had gone, I went to the garage to see my uncle, Joseph Soucy, who told me that he had just been talking with a Kerouac from Lowell who was looking for his family roots in the village."

Jack and Joe then meet René Soucy (1911-1968), his mother, Amélia Paré (1878-1976), and his wife, Adélia Bard (1919-2010), as well as their daughter, Gaétane Soucy, in their home located at 139 Taché Road West, located across and at an angle from the house where Jack's father was born.

Gaétane Soucy, the ninth child in a family of twenty-two, is the only person still alive today who was present then. She was 16 at the time. "They arrived at the house in the early afternoon. I was on the second floor. I went down to see them and facing Jack Kerouac, I found him a bit frightening. In those days, we were not used to strange visitors. He was wearing ragged clothes, large trousers and a checked shirt. He spoke broken French. He spoke well but his accent was obvious American."

According to Gaétane, who remained with the guests through their over-an-hour visit. Kerouac talked mostly with her maternal grandmother, Amélia Paré, who lived in Lowell from 1893 to 1902, working in a cotton mill. “I remember them mentioning “Lowell” many times, and they were talking about the Kirouac family, from whom my grandfather bought our farm and house. I think that my grandmother could possibly have known Jack’s parents in Lowell. We always remembered this special visit.”

We also spoke with Richard Soucy and his sister, Claudette Soucy, who were respectively 15 and 23 in August 1967. They were not present when Jack Kerouac stopped at the house but they corroborated that they had often heard their grandmother and their parents speak about this meeting. According to our research, this would be the only house that Jack visited in the village.



Photo: François Kirouac, 5 May 2012

House where Jack's father was born: Léo-Alcide Kerouac, on 5 August 1889 at Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup, Quebec.



## Institut botanique: Serving Science and Country for 100 years

Excerpts from an article by Mathieu-Robert Sauvé<sup>1</sup>  
Published in Montreal University's Alumni Bulletin on 21 October 2020

**C**reated in 1920 by Brother Marie-Victorin, the **Institut Botanique** was responsible for training the first generation of researchers and the publication of the **Flore laurentienne** in 1935.

The Institut botanique was officially born on 14 February 1920, and classes started in September 1920, with three students. In 1940, on the 20th anniversary, Marie-Victorin spoke about those 20 years of service to science and country with very modest beginnings . . . the rooms were cramped and unhealthy in the basement of the first building of Laval University's extension in Montreal, on Saint-Denis Street, a few metres away from today's UQAM (University of Quebec at Montreal). The founder had no laboratory, no office, no material! It had been overlooked! All he had was wind in his sails! The students sat on empty crates, the professor stood against the wall, without maps, illustrations or instruments.

It was the first ever French-speaking scientific group in Quebec and Canada.

In 1922, their new bulletin simply named **Contributions de l'Institut botanique de Montréal**, published the results of the research carried out by members of the group. As botanist Luc Brouillet<sup>2</sup>, explains, it was a modern publication because, as is currently done today, the texts were revised by other scientists. Brouillet studied the history of the **Institute** and talked about it at the **Belles Soirées**, a series of public lectures given at Montreal University. He added that Brother Marie-Victorin sent hundreds of copies of these bulletins to American and European universities in exchange for their similar publications. It paid off. It fed the **Institute's** library making it one of the richest in the country.

In 1923, the creation of **L'Association canadienne-française pour l'avancement des sciences** (ACFAS) (French Canadian Association for the

Advancement of Science) was a turning point. In 1935, the publication of **Flore laurentienne** was another major event; a second enriched edition was published in 1964, and a third one in 2002.

Brother Marie-Victorin decided to move the *Institut botanique* to the

<sup>1</sup> To read the whole article in French: <https://nouvelles.umontreal.ca/article/2020/10/21/l-institut-botanique-cent-ans-au-service-de-la-science-et-du-pays/>

<sup>2</sup> Luc Brouillet, professor of biodiversity at Montreal University, former curator of the Marie-Victorin Herbarium from 1982 to 2019 (*Le Trésor des Kirouac*, no. 123, spring 2017, p. 26.) In 2011, he supervised the transfer of the Marie-Victorin Herbarium into new modern spaces in the newly built Biodiversity Building. This story, told by Anabelle Nicoud, in *LA PRESSE* (Montreal daily) on 8 March 2011, can be read in French at: <https://www.arn-messager.com/2020/03/entrevue-avec-luc-brouillet/>

Montreal Botanical Garden in Montreal's east-end rather than on the mountain (where Montreal University was being built). That is what he wrote to a young man who had just gone to study botany in France, Pierre Dansereau (1911-2011)<sup>3</sup>...That was the best decision Marie-Victorin made, believes Jacques Brisson, professor at Montreal University's Department of biological sciences, and one of the organizers of the centennial celebration. The idea of providing researchers with a huge green space enabling them to carry out research on site was something totally impossible to achieve on Saint-Denis Street or even on Mount-Royal. In 1956, Pierre Dansereau, then Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, also directed the destiny of the Botanical Institute until 1961, giving new impetus to the researchers.

In 1990, the Botanical Institute became the IRBV, the first Research Institute in Plant Biology including the **Marie-Victorin Herbarium**. On 8 September 2017, when the annual KFA gathering was held at the Montreal Botanical Garden, over 160 participants were greeted by Geoffrey Hall, coordinator of the Herbarium collections and his wonderful team of volunteers.<sup>4</sup>

In 1922, Brother Marie-Victorin obtained his PhD in Sciences for his



Photo : Pierre Kirouac

Geoffrey Hall, Collection coordinator at the *Marie-Victorin Herbarium*, introducing members of the *Kirouac Family Association* to the treasures of the Herbarium, on 9 September 2017, as part of the KFA's annual family gathering held at the *Montreal Botanical Garden*.

thesis on Quebec *filicinae*, commonly called ferns. His thesis was published in the *Contributions Bulletin of the Montreal Botanical Institute* in 1923. In 2023, there is another centennial coming up, the creation of **ACFAS**.

## HOW AND WHEN TO CELEBRATE A CENTENNIAL DURING A PANDEMIC?

In preparation to said celebrations first planned for summer 2020, Professor Jacques Brisson, from the Department of Biological Sciences at Montreal University, carefully studied dusty archives to unearth the whole story but the commemoration had to be postponed to an undetermined date. However, given various key dates in the epic story of the Botanical Institute and Marie-Victorin's career in 1921, 1922 and 1923, these are reasons to underline other centennials. So, it is only a postponement, to a bigger commemoration to be held in 2021 or 2022 or 2023; and Professor Brisson will keep the *Kirouac Family Association* up to date.

<sup>3</sup> Pierre Dansereau, *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, no. 106, winter 2011, p. 15.

<sup>4</sup> *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, no. 125, autumn 2017, pp. 17-30.

## A New Curator For The Marie-Victorin Herbarium: Étienne Léveillé-Bourret

**E**tienne Léveillé-Bourret, a 30-year-old Montrealer, is an expert in plant systematic, particularly of the Cyperaceae family. He obtained a bachelor's degree from Montreal University in 2013, and a doctorate from Ottawa University in 2018. His postdoctoral work took him to Zurich University, in Switzerland.

He recently became a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Montreal University and the new Curator of the Marie-Victorin Herbarium, located in the Biodiversity Centre at the Montreal Botanical Garden.

He wrote many research papers, in which he talks about his use of

genomics to better understand the evolution and biogeography of plants. As a long-term research project, he has embarked on studying the impact of climate changes over the last 50 million years on the division/distribution, evolution and taxonomic of plants in the northern hemisphere.

Jacques Brisson, IRBV



About **China**, Étienne Léveillé-Bourret writes: *Behind is the Hailuogou glacier, that has its source near the top of Mount Gongga, in the Sichuan province in China, on the border with Tibet.*

*I visited this magnificent place during an expedition following the 19th International Botanical Congress in Shenzhen, China, 23-29 July 2017. In this park I found an extremely rare plant which can also appear on the list of ten plants with the longest scientific names -- *Sumatroscirpuspaniculatocorymbosus* (try to say it in one breath). This species is closely related to our most important Quebec botanical genus: *Carex* (with over 200 species in Quebec).*

*This is an example among a long list of plants from eastern Canada whose nearest parent is found in Asia. The better-known Ginseng is another one.*



In 2019, in **Alabama**, Étienne Léveillé-Bourret, standing in a bayou and holding a *Hottonia inflata* plant.

*He writes: I studied the sexuality of this species which has a unique biological characteristic. It is an annual winter plant: it germinates in autumn, blooms in winter and casts off its seeds in spring. Its inflated and twisted stems are swollen like fair balloons. The plants look like some large inflated drifting asparagus, they stack up and stick together like floating buoys providing the perfect camouflage for cottonmouths and alligators; both unfriendly beasts I had the strange pleasure to encounter while working there.*

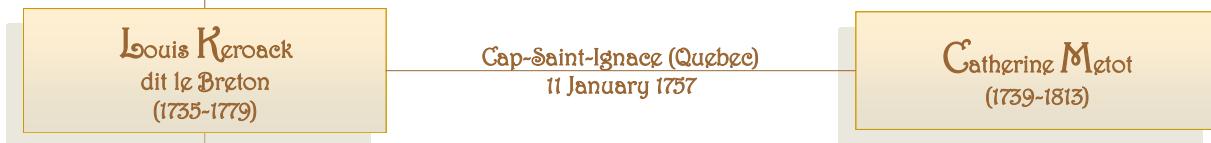
*(Editor's note: cottonmouth is a large water snake found in Southeastern USA; the adults' bite is quite painful and potentially deadly.)*

# Ancestry of Marie-Marguerite Kirouac

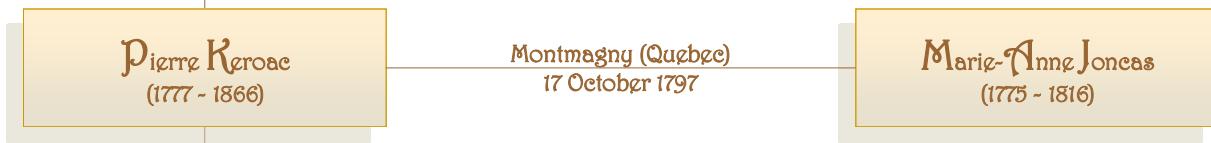
## Generation 1



## Generation 2



## Generation 3



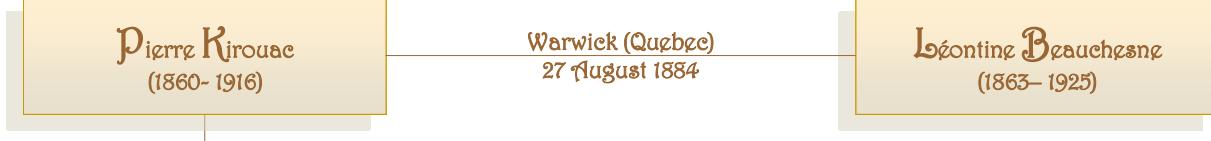
## Generation 4



## Generation 5



## Generation 6



## Generation 7



# MARIE-MARGUERITE KIROUAC SISTER SAINT-PIERRE-CLAVER

Excerpts from the obituary written by Sister Adrienne Bonenfant, p.s.s.f.  
Institut des Petites Soeurs de la Sainte-Famille/Institute of the Little Sisters of the Holy Family

**M**arie-Marguerite Kirouac was born in Warwick, County of Arthabaska, Quebec, on 21 March 1905<sup>1</sup> and baptized the same day at the parish Church Saint-Médard. She was the eleventh and last child born to Pierre Kirouac and his wife, Léontine Beauchesne. As the youngest sibling she was the most pampered; so the adage says and she always agreed with that.

She attended the local one-room schoolhouse until she turned eleven; then she was sent to study for two years at the convent of the Sisters of the Assumption in Warwick. She did not like school and was bored. So twice during recess she ran home. Her mother kept her at home during the day but, after supper, she would take her, in tears, back to the convent.

On 6 May 1916, Marie-Marguerite's father died. She was deeply traumatized. It was very sudden and terrible for the whole family<sup>2</sup>. From then on the eldest son replaced his father on the farm. At 13, she left the boarding school and came back home. She wrote: *This is when and where I learned to provide happiness to others, to be charitable towards the poor and downtrodden.*

Soon after her father's death, her oldest sister<sup>3</sup> died in childbirth, as well as her baby, leaving a husband<sup>4</sup>, two little daughters and a blind mother-in-law. Used to helping people in need, my mother my sister and myself we took on that family and, in turn, we went to look after them.

*A little later, my sister, Alphonsine<sup>6</sup>, Hospitaler of Saint-Joseph, died. It was one more hard blow but, again, it made me think seriously about my*

*religious vocation, the call I had felt when I made my first Communion. Although two of my sisters were already Hospitalers, I did not feel attracted by their lifestyle.*

*In 1925, one more pain hit me very hard: The Lord came for my mother and she was only sixty.<sup>7</sup> Every parting left a hole in my heart, the next one was my brother's wife<sup>8</sup>, they lived in the family house. She went to heaven leaving three very young children<sup>9</sup>. I remained at my brother's home, doing my best bringing up his small orphans.*

*After four full years of service, I considered it was time to try religious life, as the idea had never left me. So, when my brother remarried<sup>10</sup> giving a mother to his children, I felt no longer bound to my duties towards him.*

*Not liking books much, I felt attracted towards manual work and I liked cooking very much. When I was in the boarding school, during recess I would often go and help the*

<sup>1</sup> Her godfather was her first cousin, Émile Kirouac (GFK 00692), and her godmother was Aline, her eldest sister.

<sup>2</sup> Pierre Kirouac, born in Warwick on 29 January 1860, son of Louis Kirouac and Adélaïde Gingras, was only 56 when he died.

<sup>3</sup> This eldest sister was also her godmother, Aline (1888-1918); however, even if Marie-Marguerite writes that her sister died in childbirth, there is no mention of a baby burial in Saint-Médard's parish church registers.

<sup>4</sup> Olivier Guénette (1880-1944). Later he married Joséphine Boucher in Saint-Médard Church at Warwick (Quebec), she was the adult daughter of Omer Boucher and Marie Provencher from Warwick. Only one child was born in 1933, a girl called Clémence.



Photo: PSSF collection

Marguerite Kirouac  
Sister Saint-Pierre-Claver

<sup>5</sup> They were Alice Guénette (1912-1960) and Lucienne Guénette (1916-1999).

<sup>6</sup> Marie-Marguerite had no sister called Alphonsine. The one she mentions here was called Lucille (27 October 1898 - 14 May 1922). She was a nun in the congregation of the Hospitalers of Saint-Joseph at the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital in Arthabaska (Quebec). She was called Sister Mance. She died at 23, after four years, eight months and fourteen days of religious life. Another sister, Corinne (1893-1977), belonged to the same congregation. At one point in her life, she was Chief Matron at the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital in Arthabaska and superior at the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital in Saint-Jérôme (Laurentian, Quebec).

<sup>7</sup> Marie Valentine Bourbeau dit Beauchesne, who was also known by the Christian name Léontine (1863-1925).

<sup>8</sup> Malvina Richer (1889-1926)

<sup>9</sup> Jean-Marc Kirouac (1921-2003), who will become one of the pioneers of agricultural trade unions in Quebec (see *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, no. 49, September 1997, pp. 11-15), Gaston (1923-2010) and Lorraine (1924-1930).

<sup>10</sup> Henri Kirouac married his second wife, Annette Ling (1894-1979) on 26 December 1929 at Lyster (Quebec). She was the daughter of Bernard Ling and Eugénie Morin.

sister in the kitchen. If someone was looking for me, invariably, they would find me there. The cook often said to me that one day I would be a nun. Promptly, I would answer, but certainly not here.

I was 24 when I attended a retreat at the Motherhouse of the Congregation of the Precious-Blood in Saint-Hyacinthe. The chaplain, wanting to be absolutely certain that my decision was firm, took me to visit all the religious congregations in town. At each one, I said: I do not want to enter here, but at the Little Sisters of the Holy-Family. I had never forgotten the two nuns who had visited our home. Once my retreat was over, the chaplain said to me: "Goodbye, go to your Little Sisters of the Holy-Family; I answer for you." I never forgot his words.

Two weeks later, Marie-Marguerite crossed the threshold of the Motherhouse of the Little Sisters of the Holy-Family (PSSF) at Sherbrooke (Quebec). As a Postulant, she was sent to serve at the PSSF house in Saint-Jean-d'Iberville for ten months. On 5 August 1932, she went back to the Motherhouse to profess her temporary vows and take the name of Sister Saint-Pierre-Claver<sup>11</sup>. At 27 the novice adapts fairly easily to her new life of silence, prayer and renunciation, as she is determined to adhere to the rules and be moulded according to the spirit of Mother Marie-Léonie<sup>12</sup>.

She loved music, so, at the novitiate, she was really hoping to sing in the choir, but this was refused because her health was deemed too weak. She renounced that pleasure but, because of her love of music, she taught singing of the psalms to her colleagues and directed singing during Masses. On 5 August 1934, she professed her temporary vows, then her perpetual vows on 10 January 1940.

Then obedience came one after the other<sup>13</sup>. The first one was at the Archbishop's Palace in Montreal where she was in charge of cleaning the priests' rooms, she worked with two other rather slow nuns. Later she admitted that: *being rather quick myself, I really suffered from their slow pace*. After that she was assigned to the kitchen and she remained a cook for the rest of her life; hence one word fits her whole life: SERVICE.



Pierre Kirouac (1860-1916) and Léontine Beauchênes (1863-1925), parents of Marguerite Kirouac, later Sister Saint-Pierre-Claver.  
(Photo: KFA collection)



Malvina Richer (1889-1926), wife of Henri Kirouac, Marguerite's brother.  
(Photo: KFA collection)



Émile Kirouac (1888-1969) in 1907, age 19; two years earlier he had been godfather to his cousin, Marie-Marguerite.

<sup>11</sup> According to the Catholic tradition, a religious name is the name taken by a candidate, man or woman, entering a religious congregation, upon taking their first vow. It is usually the name of a saint, man or woman, chosen by the superior, sometimes by the candidate. This had a double purpose: the saint chosen was meant to be an inspiration but it was also meaning that the person was leaving behind his/her past life in the world. Hence, Marguerite-Marie became Sister Saint-Pierre-Claver when making her first vows in 1932. At her death in 1990, she was known as Sister Marguerite-Marie, the names given at her baptism. In Quebec, the tradition of taking a saint's name in a congregation disappeared in the 1970s.

<sup>12</sup> Mother Marie Léonie: Born in the Village of L'Acadie (Quebec) on 12 May 1840, she was baptized Alodie-Virginie Paradis, but grew up called Élodie. She joined the Marianites of the Holy Cross in 1854. In 1874, at 34, she was named director of the novices at Saint-Joseph College in Memramcook, New Brunswick. In August 1880, she founded the Institute of the Holy Family Sisters (Petites Sœurs de la Sainte-Famille). She died at Sherbrooke on 3 May 1912. Many miraculous cures were attributed to her. In 1979, a film about her life, entitled *Les Servantes du Bon Dieu*, was made by Diane Létourneau. At the PSSF's Motherhouse on Galt Street in Sherbrooke (Quebec) was created the Marie-Léonie Paradis Centre. On 11 September 1984, she was beatified by Pope John-Paul II during his visit to Montreal, Canada.

<sup>13</sup> In religious congregations, having made vows of chastity, poverty and obeisance, assignations were obediences, like in the army, they were marching orders given without consulting the candidate.

She was in charge of the kitchen at the Bishop's Palace in Valleyfield, Quebec, for eighteen years; followed by two years at the Presbytery in Hull (Quebec); two years at the Seminary in Nicolet; nineteen years at the Archbishop's Palace in Ottawa; four years running the infirmary kitchen at the Motherhouse in Sherbrooke; and four years at the Saint-Joseph infirmary kitchen. She also worked in a number of other houses for a year or less. She developed empathetic listening, compassion, respect for people, generosity, sincerity, honesty, righteousness, and faithfulness to all Christian values.

Marie-Marguerite was a woman who lived in the present; she always found ways to make everything pleasant and flavourful. She shared all her secrets with those who worked with her. She showed them how she did things and why, she taught the love of work well done and how noble a calling it was to serve priests. If ever there was a surplus of work, she would immediately get to work and asked her aides to help. She was a very wise woman, also known for the universal charity, kind and peaceful authority, who communicated easily, and her manners were cordial and respectful. She was also very sensitive and always displayed a happy mood. To those who confided in her, she knew how to support and encourage and promised to pray for them. She prayed a great deal and used to tell her colleagues: *Everything works so well when praying and you feel the presence of the Lord.*

Sister Marie-Marguerite compared the heat from the stove to the flame of love. The flame producing vocations; inciting souls to give all, is also the flame that maintains perseverance and solidify wills. The flame that melts selfishness. God lights the flame in us but we need to feed it with prayers, sacrifices, and holy Communion.

In 1958, Sister Marie-Marguerite was back in hospital for surgery; and in 1966, for coronary insufficiency. After many requests, she obtained permission to follow the full thirty-day spiritual exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. Her retreat was supervised by a Jesuit father Léo-Paul Bourassa. On 10 January 1973, embarking on this retreat, she started filling a notebook. After her death, among her personal papers, a short note was found, the testimony of her spiritual director.

*"May I tell you how much I have admired and have thanked God for your wonderful spiritual life and union with our Lord, such a gift from God to you. Continue feeling that you are always more and more in the hand of the Father. You are already so much into his hand. His ever powerful hand grasps you with his tenderness. Be happy and, let me thank you for all the happiness and edification you have been to me. I am happy to know that you have been able to start working for the priests again, in this way you are carrying on the Holy Virgin's vocation as she was wholly given to the High Priest himself, Our Lord. Remember that all you are doing, He is doing it with you, and, in this way, your every action is no longer profane but all is sanctified by Christ the Lord. May the Holy Virgin keep you and always introduce you in all these things that She kept in her heart.*

Léo-Paul Bourassa, s.j.

In 1973, she underwent major surgery at Hôtel-Dieu Hospital in Sherbrooke. Having to reduce her activities, from 1976 to 1980, she served special diets to sick and convalescent nuns living in the main PSSF infirmary at the Motherhouse. Then from 1980 to 1984, she did the same at Saint-Joseph infirmary. Everyone remembered a very skilled woman, ever so polite and always available. In 1978, she suffered from cerebral arteriosclerosis. In 1981, she was

hospitalized again but got better and went back to work.

In 1984, she celebrated her golden jubilee. For her, it was a great occasion to express her gratitude for her religious life and the love of her family. The nephews and nieces she had looked after as a surrogate mother loved her dearly and visited her regularly. Once retired, she suffered from vertigo during many months. On 21 May 1989, she fell and broke her left hip and was confined to her bedroom. She was gravely ill and her strength diminished gradually. To a colleague visiting her, she said: *I have always given the largest part to the Lord because He always asked for the best in me. Now He is asking me to give Him everything and He takes little bits by little bits. And the nun to reply: Sister Marguerite, would you please give me your beautiful qualities as cook, your knowledge and your experience of so many years at the service of Priests? She looked at me, closed her eyes as praying, kept that attitude a while, then, reopened her eyes, took both my hands in hers and said with a smile an incredible peace radiating from her: "I give you everything! Everything! Because I do not need anything anymore. My days are counted and they are given to me only to love God and do His holy Will." At that very moment, I really felt the presence of God in her life and illness and in her total offering.*

On 28 August 1990, she had a hard time breathing and some hypertension, she died five days later, on 2 September 1990, after working fifty-eight years at the service of priests. The Rev. Georges-Albert Gagnon celebrated the funeral Mass. In his homily, he commented Luke's Gospel: *Blessed is the servant whom the Lord finds at work. Sister Saint-Pierre-Claver always kept her lamp lit.*

# CONGRATULATIONS TO GEORGE AND DOROTHY CURWICK, ON THEIR 75<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

dearly loved by 12 children, 48 grandchildren, 70 great-grandchildren, and 20 great-great-grandchildren who love you very much

Celebration planned for summer 2021

## *Introduction*

**R**eprinted for the first time, the last page of four entitled: **CURWICK CHRONICLES**.

*Mark Curwick and his wife, Barbara Darby Curwick, created a clever card presented as an article published in their local newspaper, the St. Paul Pioneer Press. The first three pages are Headlines from across the World in 1946. The fourth page, entitled News of the Day, January 23, 2021, is a tongue-in-cheek take on the 75 years of married life of George and Dorothy Curwick. George liked the card so much that he sent a photocopy to the KFA treasurer when renewing his membership for 2021.*

*Thus, it is with great pleasure and pride that we reprint in our family encyclopedia, Le Trésor des Kirouac, the fourth page recounting such an exceptional anniversary.*

*We thank Mrs. Anne Moynagh Peterson for the photos illustrating the article about her grandparents' 75th wedding anniversary, George & Dorothy Curwick.*

*We are delighted to share the happiness of a wonderful family and we wish the golden couple and their numerous descendants many more years of shared love.*

*The Editor*



**B**ud (George) and Dorothy Curwick celebrate 75 years of marital bliss. The couple, along with their twelve children, spouses, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren are celebrating their 75 years of marriage, as per COVID guidelines, socially distanced. Though they cannot be together with their family, the many years of love can be felt through the many miles that separate them.

The couple was married in Texas on January 23, 1946, celebrated their 50th anniversary with an event held in Rock Creek, Minn., in 1996, their

70th in the summer of 2016 also in Rock Creek. Many family and friends gathered to share in the event.

After spending the early years of their marriage near Ghent, Minn., they moved their growing family to Oakdale, Minn., and then on to rural Spooner, Wis. After retirement, they spent the brief summer months near Rush City, Minn., before escaping to the warmth and comfort of the Rio Grande Valley in southern Texas during the cold long months of winter.



On 23 January 2021, George and Dorothy (Sandling) Curwick marked their 75<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. OUR WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS!  
(Photo: Anne Moynagh Peterson)

Bud and Dorothy are proud of their legacy of raising twelve children, four of whom are good looking, two are pretty smart and one is supremely talented. Many believe their prolific fertility is a consequence of their strong Catholic faith, but according to Bud, they had to keep trying until they got it right. Their diligence finally paid off in 1961 with the birth of their tenth child, Mark. Two more daughters followed, but it became clear that these were merely

the result of brief lapses in judgment.

Seventy Five years of marriage is an incredible milestone that few couples successfully reach. Dorothy is quick to point out that “after the first seventy years, the last five are easy”.

Their sage advice to young couples for long and fruitful marriage is to always keep Jesus in your lives and pray for his guidance and protection.

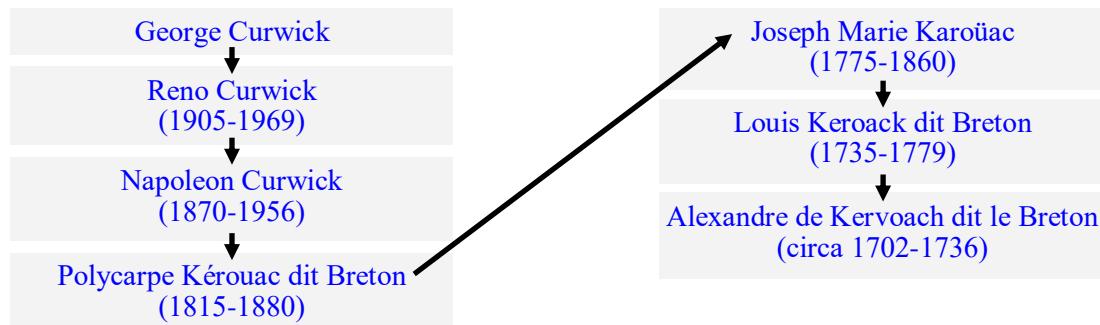
It also helps if you marry a woman young. Don't let her learn to drive and keep her pregnant for the first fifteen years of marriage.

They are an inspiration to all of us for their faithful love and enduring faith that can overcome hard times and multiply into countless hearts that result from their glorious union.



Photo taken on Bud's 90th birthday. Standing behind their parents, George and Dorothy's twelve children, (from left to right) in descending order of age, from youngest to oldest: Laura Ann (1964), Jane Marie (1962), Mark Kenneth (1961), Caroline Marie (1959), Thomas George (1958), David Wayne (1956), Joseph Napoleon (1955), Rita Jeane (1954), Richard Alan (1951), Patricia Elaine (1950), Judy Louise (1949) and Shirley Margaret (1947).

### From George Leo Curwick to Alexandre de Kervoach dit le Breton



# *A Kervoach descendant through the female line:*

**PASCAL BÉRUBÉ**

by André St-ARNAUD

**A**ndré St-Arnaud keeps looking for personalities who share our common ancestor, Alexandre de Kervoach, through female lines. In autumn 2018, he started with Montreal Mayor, Valérie Plante, (Trésor 128), followed by Mélanie Joly, Liberal Party Minister in Justin Trudeau's federal government (Trésor 129). Next came Christine St-Pierre, Provincial liberal deputy and former minister in Jean Charest's and Philippe Couillard's Liberal governments (Trésor 130). Then Maxime Bernier, a former federal minister in Stephen Harper's federal Conservative government and later founder and chief of Parti Populaire of Canada (Trésor 131). Actor Nathan Christopher Fillion (Trésor 132) and Étienne Boulay (Trésor 133), a professional sportsman were followed by Bernard Lamarre (Trésor 134), engineer and building specialist, co-founder of the international engineering firm, Lavalin.

Today we read about Pascal Bérubé who was Parti Québécois' interim chief during two years (October 2018 to October 2020). Among his most extraordinary findings, he found out that Pascal Bérubé shares three ancestors with actor Nathan Christopher Fillion, born in Alberta in 1971 and introduced in Trésor 132, spring 2020.

Indeed, not only Pascal Bérubé is a descendant of Françoise-Ursule Kuerouac, but also a descendant of Simon-Alexandre Lamarre and Adèle Lamarre, who married Philippe Caron in 1846 at Saint-Simon-de-Rimouski. Joséphine Caron's older sister, Julie Caron, is the great-grandmother of deputy Pascal Bérubé, and this Julie Caron (1850-1917), is also the great-great-grandmother of actor Nathan Christopher Fillion.

We are ever so grateful to André St-Arnaud, whose findings contribute so much to the extended ancestry of Alexandre de Kervoach and his wife, Louise Bernier.

*The Editor of Le Trésor des Kirouac*

**P**ascal Bérubé, born on 16 February 1975 in Matane (on the Gaspé Peninsula, Saint-Lawrence south-shore), is a Quebec politician. First elected in 2007, as PQ (Parti québécois) deputy for Matane in the provincial government he was re-elected in 2008. In 2012, he was elected deputy for the new Matane-Matapedia constituency, and again in 2014 and 2018.



Deputy of the Parti Québécois, Pascal Bérubé, standing beside the monument to his ancestors at the entrance of the cemetery at Rivière-Ouelle on Saint-Lawrence south-shore. This monument was unveiled in 1988 by the Bérubé Family Association to mark the 300th anniversary of the death of their ancestor, Damien born in Normandy. (Photo: Courtesy of the Bérubé Family Association)

In 1998, Pascal Bérubé received his Bachelor's degree in Education from the Quebec University at Rimouski. While studying there he was president of the Student Association. In 1998, he was also vice-president of the Quebec Federation of University Students. He started his professional life as development director of the Student Association at UQAM Management Science School at Quebec University at Montreal (2001-2002), was coordinator of Carrefour Jeunesse-Emploi (Youth Employment Centre) at Matane (2002-2003), coordinator Training Partners Round Table (Table des partenaires en formation) for the Matane region (2003-2006) and project coordinator for the fight against poverty and social exclusion for the Upper-Gaspé region (2006-2007).

A militant separatist, Pascal Bérubé was political attaché in the cabinet of Education and Youth minister, François Legault, and Regions' minister, Jean-Pierre Jolivet, in Lucien Bouchard's government from 1996 to 2001. He was also president of the PQ national committee youth section.

## Deputy and Minister

Pascal Bérubé lost the 2003 election by only 33 votes out of 18,613, to Liberal candidate Nancy Charest in the Matane constituency. On 26 March 2007, he won that same constituency by a small margin of 213 votes over Nancy Charest; he was only 32 at the time. He was re-elected in 2008, this time with a comfortable majority. In 2012 and 2014, he was re-elected in the new Matane-Matapedia constituency, each time with some 60% of the vote, the largest majority within the PQ.

On 19 September 2012, he was named delegate minister for tourism and minister responsible for the Lower-Saint-Lawrence region. At 38, he became the second youngest minister in Pauline Marois' (provincial) government.

From 2014 to 2016, he was vice-president of the Transports Commission, and from 2014-2018, Environment Minister, besides being the official opposition spokesperson on Public Security.

In 2017, the Quebec National Assembly parliamentarians named him **Parliamentarian of the Year**, and he was chosen **Personality of the Year** by the Montreal daily *La Presse*.

At the last provincial election, on 1st October 2018, Pascal Bérubé was re-elected for the fifth time in the Matane-Matapedia constituency with 48.68% of the votes. After that election, his colleagues in the caucus chose him to be the PQ parliamentarian chief. At 44, he was the youngest person ever to become chief of a Quebec political party.

SOURCE: Wikipedia and PQ (Parti Québécois) web site. (translated by MALT for Le Trésor)



## Ancestry of Pascal Bérubé

1- Alexandre de Kervoac (circa 1702-1736)	<u>22 October 1732</u> Cap-St-Ignace (Quebec)	Louise Bernier (1712-1802) (Jean-Baptiste and Geneviève Caron)
2-Simon-Alexandre Keroack dit le Breton (1732-1812)	<u>15 June 1758</u> L'Islet-sur-Mer (Quebec)	Élisabeth Chalifour (1739-1814) (François and Élisabeth Gamache)
3- Françoise-Ursule Kuerouac (1768-1846)	<u>1<sup>st</sup> April 1788</u> L'Islet-sur-Mer (Quebec)	Joseph-Gabriel Lamarre (1763-1853) (Joseph and Marie-Louise Rousseau)
4- Simon-Alexandre Lamarre (1791-1885)	<u>1<sup>st</sup> March 1824</u> L'Islet-sur-Mer (Quebec)	Charlotte Talon (1795-1875) (Pierre-Paul and Charlotte Talbot)
5- Adèle Lamarre (1826-1908)	<u>10 November 1846</u> St-Simon-de-Rimouski (Quebec)	Philippe Caron (1823-1896) (Stanislas and Angèle-Angélique Chamberland)
6- Joséphine Caron (1867-1952)	<u>4 March 1889</u> St-Damase, Matapedia county (Quebec)	Marcel-Arsène Thibault (1866-1954) (Marcel and Sara Métayer)
7-Joséphine Thibault (1898-1991)	<u>29 September 1920</u> Baie-des-Sables (Quebec)	Georges Bérubé (1894-1949) (Démétrius and Marie Lévesque)
8- Yvan-Alban Bérubé (1937-2017)	<u>26 June 1966</u> Matane (Quebec)	Janine St-Laurent (1939-2015) (François and Marie-Laure L'Italien)
9- Pascal Bérubé		Annie-Soleil Proteau

# Dorilda Fortin Godbout, Granddaughter of Marcelline Kirouac, wife of 15<sup>th</sup> Premier of Quebec

## Presentation

In the last Trésor, number 134, you read about a de Kervoach descendant through the female line, Irene Carboneau-Gallen (1926-1993), who was the First Lady of New Hampshire from 1978 to 1982.

Again thanks to André St-Arnaud, a regular contributor to *Le Trésor*, always searching for important de Kervoach descendant through female lines, we present Mrs. Dorilda Fortin-Godbout. He found a short biography of Dorilda in Jean-Guy Genest's doctoral thesis entitled *Vie et œuvre d'Adélard Godbout\** (1892-1956), (\*Life & Work of A.G.) presented at Laval University in 1977. Dorilda Fortin (1889-1969), was the wife of Adélard Godbout, who was the 15th Premier of the province of Quebec in 1936 and from 1939 to 1944.

While preparing footnotes, to better understand the story, we learned about the passing of Mrs. Marthe Godbout-Bussières, who had lived in the family home. Her son most kindly offered to provide us with photos, even enlisting his aunt Rachel's help; she is the last surviving of the five children of Dorilda and Adélard.

We warmly thank Mr. Michel Bussières, his aunt Rachel Godbout-Jobin and her daughters, Michelle, Diane and Francine for their irreplaceable contribution. The photos illustrating the article are from their family archives. We are particularly grateful to them for proofreading, editing and enriching the biography of their grandparents.

Marie Lussier Timperley



Dorilda Fortin (1889-1969)  
(Photo: Francine Jobin collection)

telephone exchange located in her mother's house. It seems this is how Joseph-Adélard Godbout (1892-1956) met Dorilda when the short blond eligible young man spoke for the first time with the tall young lady with a natural suntan when he went to place a call. At the time, Adélard was teaching in at the provincial agricultural college at Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, but his repeated trips to L'Islet did not go unnoticed. To his colleagues teasing him, Adélard simply answered that he enjoyed his visits to L'Islet. A year later, 34-year-old

\* Marthe Godbout-Bussières of Freleighsburg (Quebec) aged 93, died on 6 February 2021. She was the daughter of Adélard Godbout and Dorilda Fortin. She was predeceased by her husband, Georges Bussières, her brothers Jean and Pierre, and her sister, Thérèse. She leaves to mourn her children, Michel (Gillian), Marie (Marc), Paule (Louis) and Lizanne (the late Ross); her grandchildren and her sister, Rachel Godbout-Jobin.

**M**arie-Louise-Dorilda Fortin was born on 24 August 1889 in L'Islet-sur-Mer, Quebec south-shore, daughter of Florent Fortin (1855-1918) and Hermeline Éliza Lebourdais<sup>1</sup> (1856-1934). As a child Dorilda liked going for walks but she was not the outdoor type. As a teenager, she preferred to play piano and go to the theatre. She taught piano in L'Islet for a few years before getting married. In 1907, at 18, she received her diploma for teaching French elementary (model school) and high school (academic school). Four years later, on 11 September 1911, school inspector L.P. Goulet presented Miss Dorilda Fortin, teacher at Saint-Louis School in L'Islet, with a \$20. bonus to reward her ardour and dedication to the teaching profession.

### Marriage

The *Cercles de fermières* (French-speaking farmers' wives' circles) were very popular in the province of Quebec at the time; a new section was founded in L'Islet in 1922 and Dorilda Fortin was named treasurer. After teaching in the Belles-Amours Lane school, she took charge of the village



<sup>1</sup> Éliza Lebourdais was the youngest of nineteen children of Marcelline Kirouac and Joseph-Louis Le Bourdais. To further understand the close relationships between the Kirouac and Le Bourdais, two families originally from Brittany, please refer to *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 107, spring 2012, p. 13.

# Ancestry of Dorilda Fortin

## Generation 1

Alexandre de Kervoac  
circa 1702-1736

Cap-Saint-Ignace (Québec)  
22 October 1732

Louise Bernier  
(1712-1802)  
(Jean-Baptiste &  
Geneviève Caron)

Simon-Alexandre Keroack  
dit le Breton  
(1732-1812)

## Generation 2

Elisabeth Chalifour  
(1739-1814)  
(François & Elisabeth Gamache)

Simon-Alexandre Keroack  
dit le Breton  
(1760 - 1823)

Cap-Saint-Ignace (Québec)  
18 November 1782

Marie-Ursule Guimont  
(1765 - 1820)  
(Jean-Gabriel &  
Reine-Ursule Lemieux)

Simon-Alexandre Kuerouac  
dit Breton  
(1783 - 1871)

## Generation 4

Constance Cloutier  
(1789 - 1843)  
(Chrysostôme &  
Françoise Plubut)

Marcelline Kijouac  
(1811 - 1885)

## Generation 5

Joseph-Louis Le Bourdais  
(1808-1886)  
(Joseph &  
Marie-Marthe Couillard)

Éliza Le Bourdais  
(1856- 1934)

L'Islet-sur-Mer (Québec)  
21 October 1828

Florent Fortin  
(1855- 1918)  
(Joseph & Anastasie Bélanger)

Dorilda Fortin  
(1889- 1969)

L'Islet-sur-Mer (Québec)  
5 February 1884

Adélard Godbout  
(1892- 1956)  
(Eugène & Marie-Louise Duret)

André St-Arnaud, February 2021



Wedding of Dorilda Fortin and Adélard Godbout,  
L'Islet-sur-Mer, 9 October 1923.  
(Photo: Francine Jobin collection)

Dorilda Fortin married 32-year-old Adélard Godbout.

The wedding took place on 9 October 1923 in the Holy-Virgin Chapel<sup>2</sup>, the bride's brother, Rev. Irénée Fortin<sup>3</sup> (1884-1936), officiated. Special music was played during the ceremony. The bride wore a navy-blue suit with a matching navy hat and silver fox fur. Her bouquet was American Beauty roses. A reception followed at Mrs. Fortin's home and the new couple left for their honeymoon to Montreal, New York and Philadelphia. They settled in Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, in one of the houses built by the Agricultural College. This union produced two sons, Jean and Pierre, and three daughters, Marthe, Rachel and Thérèse.

### Family

A Montreal nephew, Fernand Godbout, was studying at Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière while his uncle Adélard was teaching there. The young man was often a guest at his uncle's home, where he particularly enjoyed Dorilda's delicious cooking. Relatives were always welcomed and really enjoyed Dorilda who was so warm-hearted and such a great cook.

As the family increased, Adélard hired a maid to help with domestic task. This was to make life easier for his wife and not because there was more money coming in. In Quebec then, teachers' salaries were meagre at best; teachers were badly underpaid. Adélard as county agronomist was equally underpaid. It is only during the *Quebec Quiet Revolution*<sup>4</sup> that agronomist and teachers started earning fair wages. In order to help with the family budget, Dorilda, like many other housewives then, did paid-work at home. An industrial company supplied knitting machines to women who could operate them and were paid by the piece. It greatly helped make ends meet.

Her husband was more and more involved in politics and Dorilda was not too happy about him becoming a minister. It had already been eating into their family life for eighteen months when her husband entered the cabinet and that did not improve the situation. Regretfully, but because she loved her husband, she agreed to see him become a minister in 1930; but on one condition: that it should not affect the children's education.

Dorilda went to Quebec the day before her husband's swearing-in ceremony. She accepted the new situation, which also meant moving to a large town. She would never interfere with her husband's career. She attended receptions and special events more because it was her duty than by pleasure. First and foremost, she remained a housewife and a mother keen to give the best education possible to their five children. The well-being of her family came first. Both Adélard and Dorilda being professional teachers, education was of the utmost importance and they did all they could to promote youth education. They talked a lot with their children on all subjects, answering their multiple questions, encouraging them to carry on their studies, to develop a career. The family atmosphere was simple, never pretentious. They never raised their voices to be obeyed; that went without saying. The children were correctly dressed without fuss. Dorilda was naturally thrifty and avoided needless expenses.

<sup>2</sup> *Holy-Virgin Chapel, now Sailors Chapel, was built in 1835 on the Pioneers Road in L'Islet, a kilometre east of the parish church, Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours church, as a procession chapel used mainly during the Corpus Christi celebration in June. When it was restored in 1935, for its centennial it was dedicated to the sailors given L'Islet's important maritime history. In 1981, it was designated a heritage building by the Quebec Department of Cultural Affairs. (Source: Wikipedia)*

<sup>3</sup> *Irénée was the eldest of the eight children of Éliza Le Bourdais and Florent Fortin. He became a priest as was often the case then. He was a vicar in Saint-Georges-de-Beauce (Quebec). Irénée died at Lévis on 19 January 1936 of chest pain and angina. His brother-in-law, then Quebec minister of Agriculture, the Honorable Adélard Godbout, attended his funeral as well as many members of the clergy including Rev. Victor Rochette, canon at the Archbishop's palace, Alphonse Fortin, superior at Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière (Quebec), Rev. Arthur Beaudoin, Alexandre Vachon, Pierre Saindon from Rimouski (Quebec) and Louis-Marie Belleau from the Lévis College.*

<sup>4</sup> *The Quiet Revolution refers to the 1960s; it was a period of intense socio-political and socio-cultural change in the Canadian province of Quebec, characterized by the effective secularization of government, the creation of a state-run welfare, etc. (Wikipedia)*

In 1931, the family bought a farm in the Eastern Townships. Adélard Godbout chose Freleighsburg<sup>5</sup>, as the oasis to rest away from the Capital's political and administrative worries. At the end of every school year, the family left town to spend the summer in their beautiful country estate *La Ferme des Trois-Ruisseaux*<sup>6</sup> the name chosen for their home. The trip became a kind of expedition, driving from Quebec City to Freleighsburg crossing various towns, Plessisville, Warwick, Kingsey Falls, Richmond and Cowansville. The minister/farmer drove his own car.

Like many women at the time, Dorilda never had a driver's license. However, even after her husband's death, she always had a car at her disposal. When she needed to do some shopping she would ask one of the farm employees or one of her children to drive her in her car. For her, it meant keeping a certain independence.

In 1949, the family officially settled at Freleighsburg. Relatives kept coming to the farm, particularly Dorilda's brothers; they loved to visit their older sister. They felt it was important to keep in touch with her and it was such a pleasure to enjoy a picnic under the tall pines.

### The Renowned Godbout Hospitality

Adélard Godbout was always inviting people for dinner. His friends and colleagues used to say: *In Godbout's home, the table is always served.* Paul-Omer Roy, agronomist and Godbout's friend, said publicly: *If you want a good meal, go to the Godbouts.* Whenever visitors came to their Freleighsburg home, Godbout would provide them with room and board because he would not let any of them have to put up with the shabby local hotel. Of course, that meant extra work for Dorilda but she was always happy to do so, considering this was her contribution to her husband's career.

After her husband's death, Dorilda continued to operate the farm with her eldest son, Jean. In her free time, she particularly liked to receive her children and share with her grandchildren her many memories. Dorilda lived at the farm until her death on 10 January 1969. She is buried beside her husband in Saint-François d'Assise Cemetery in Freleighsburg.



<sup>5</sup> Freleighsburg is a town in the Brome-Missisquoi County, southeast of Montreal, in the Eastern townships. (Source: Wikipedia)

<sup>6</sup> You may remember that the property our Breton ancestor, Alexandre de Kervoach, bought in 1734 in Notre-Dame-du-Portage, was called *Les Trois Ruisseaux* (the three Streams).



Dorilda Fortin and Adélard Godbout's family photo taken in front of their residence in Freleighsburg, Quebec in 1936. From left to right: Marthe, Adélard, Rachel, Pierre, Thérèse, Dorilda and Jean. (Photo taken by Rev. Maurice Proulx; courtesy of Francine Jobin collection)

### Adélard Godbout, the politician

Joseph-Adélard Godbout was born in Saint-Éloi, Témiscouata County, on 24 September 1892. He was the son of Marie-Louise (née Durette) and Eugène Godbout, farmer and cattle breeder, former Témiscouata deputy in the Quebec Legislature from 1921 to 1923.

After getting his BA from the Rimouski Seminary, Adélard Godbout was one of the most brilliant theology students at the Rimouski Grand Seminary. Afterwards, he completed the whole course offered by the *École supérieure d'Agriculture*, i.e., the Provincial Agricultural College located in Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière. He obtained his Bachelor in Agricultural Sciences with great distinction. This was followed by a long internship at the Massachusetts Agricultural College.

In December 1918, he started teaching at the Agricultural College in Sainte-Anne.

In 1922, while still teaching there, he was appointed agronomist for the County of L'Islet.

In 1925, he abandoned his position as county agronomist to teach exclusively zootechnique at the Agricultural College in Sainte-Anne. During the annual holidays he did agricultural propaganda, organized the annual draft-horses exhibition, that are still regularly held at Sainte-Anne, he created a number of breeders' clubs, particularly the Quebec provincial *Ayrshire Breeders Club*, he was also a judge at various Quebec regional agricultural fairs and at the Toronto Exhibition.

In 1927, he was appointed one of the judges of the annual Quebec Agricultural Merit Competition.

In May 1929, a delegation from L'Islet County asked him to be the candidate at the partial provincial



(Photo: Francine Jobin collection)

The Godbout family photographed in front of their residence in Frelighsburg, Quebec in July 1941. From left to right: Marthe, Pierre, Dorilda, Thérèse, Adélard, Rachel and Jean.

election; on 13 May he was elected deputy by acclamation. He was re-elected with large majorities at the general elections in 1931 and 1935.

In November 1930, he became Minister of Agriculture in the Quebec Liberal Government replacing the late Honorable J.-L. Perron. Immediately upon taking up his function, Godbout, with the help of the officers of his department, promoted farmers education, organized agricultural production on a modern basis and increased the sale of Quebec agricultural products. He wanted farms to become commercial enterprises.

On 11 June 1936, following the defeat of Taschereau's Liberal government, Godbout was invited to form the new government and was sworn in as Quebec's Premier the same day.

At the election on 17 August 1936, his government was defeated, and he lost his seat in L'Islet, by only twenty votes, to his adversary, Joseph Bilodeau<sup>7</sup> (1900-1976). However, he remained leader of the Quebec Liberal party.

In 1939's general election, he was re-elected and became both provincial Premier and Minister of Agriculture (1939-1944) as well as Minister of Colonization (1939-1944).

During his second mandate as Premier the right to vote for Quebec women was finally adopted. "While the conservative elites and the clergy promoted the image of women as mother of large families and keeper of values, language and tradition, the reality had greatly changed during the decades before, so the right for women to vote finally became law."

During the parliamentary session on 11 April 1940, Premier Adélard Godbout presented the new bill giving women the right to vote and to be

<sup>7</sup> Quebec lawyer and politician. L'Islet deputy for Union nationale party from 1936 to 1939, and Minister of Inter-municipal Affairs, Industry & Commerce from 15 December 1936 to 8 November 1939. In December 1930, Joseph Bilodeau's sister, Eugénie, married Eugène L'Heureux, the parents of Louise L'Heureux, first wife of former Quebec Premier, René Lévesque.

eligible to the Legislature. He explained the reasons why he supported this: *Circumstances have changed here just like everywhere else in the world... The conditions we now live in make women equal to men.* It was a major about-face from a man who had been a member of Louis-Alexandre Taschereau's Liberal government which had been fighting for two decades against all bills giving women the right to vote. May we think that his wife, Dorilda Fortin, granddaughter of Marcelline Kirouac, contributed something to her husband's attitude on the subject? If that is so, we can be very proud of it!

Education was a priority for Adélard Godbout. In 1943, Godbout's government adopted the law making education mandatory up to the age of fourteen.

In addition, in 1944, elementary schooling became free, this was a first step toward free education in public schools.

In 1944, Godbout's government nationalized the powerful *Montreal Light, Heat & Power and Beauharnois Power*; and he created **Hydro-Québec** to administer these enterprises and adopted a policy of rural electrification.

Adélard Godbout was president of the *Canadian Agronomist Association*, section of Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatière; president of the alumni of *Sainte-Anne's Agricultural College*; secretary of the *Lower-Saint-Lawrence Association of Draft-Horse Breeders (Percheron horses)*; president of the *Canadian Association of Agricultural Technicians* (1933), etc.

He was granted a number of *honoris causa* doctorates: in Agricultural Sciences from Laval University, Quebec City; of Law by McGill University, Montreal; in Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine from Montreal University. Adélard Godbout was made a Commander of the Ordre du Mérite agricole of France, a title granted by the French Government.



## INVITATION

Exhibition  
about  
Adélard Godbout  
at  
the Tourist Office  
in Frelingsburg,  
-town centre-  
1, Place de  
l'Hôtel de Ville

Open to the public  
from May to October  
2021.

To confirm  
day & time  
contact:  
450-298-5133  
Ext. 30,

or email to:  
[tourisme@  
frelingsburg.ca](mailto:tourisme@frelingsburg.ca)

The Honorable Godbout was an agronomist and farmer. He was also a member of the *Club des journalistes* of Quebec, and a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, Montmagny Council.

Defeated at the 8 August 1944 election, he became the Leader of the Opposition until 1948. In 1949, the Honorable Godbout was named to Canada's Senate, recommended by the then Canadian Prime Minister, the Honorable Louis St-Laurent -- a position he kept until his death.

After falling in the staircase at home, Adélard Godbout died at Montreal on 18 September 1956. He was interred in the St-François d'Assise Cemetery at Frelingsburg.

## Adélard Godbout was a visionary

In 2006, in Montreal's daily, *La Presse*, Louis J. Duhamel wrote that if there had not been the Duplessis era between 1944 and 1960, *Quebec would not have had to wait for the 1960s to complete its quiet revolution and, today, this progressive visionary would be recognized as the "true father of the modern Quebec".*

**He deserves to be considered the  
initiator of the modern  
development of Quebec.**



## Sources

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- Le Placoteux - Saint-Pascal de Kamourasca newspaper, Sunday, 24 September 2017.
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Rachel Godbout-Jobin and Marthe Godbout-Bussières at the unveiling of their father's new bust, on 30 May 2019, in Freleighsburg, Quebec.  
Adélard Godbout was the 15th Premier of Quebec. (Photo: Francine Jobin collection)

## THE SHORT STORY OF ADÉLARD'S BUST

In 1960, four years after our grandfather's death, the Quebec government had a monument installed in Saint-François-d'Assise cemetery in Freleighsburg, including a bust sculpted by Émile Brunet.

Unfortunately, on 11 March 2003, the bust was stolen. A new bust was cast in bronze and went back on top of the monument in the cemetery in 2005.

In 2015, summer in Quebec was particularly hot and dry and the water level in many lakes was very low. A farmer working in his field in Henryville discovered our grandfather's bust in a dried-up swamp on his land and returned it to our family.

Two years ago, during a small family gathering, it was decided to offer the bust to the municipality of Freleighsburg in order for Adélard to be in a prominent place in his village. The mayor, Jean Lévesque, quickly obtained a subsidy to cover the cost of restoring and installing the bust.

The family is most grateful to the municipality for this beautiful homage to our father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Over the years, numerous and various rewards were presented to this great politician, but, for his five children, including Marthe and Rachel who are still with us, and for the whole family, it is a great honour to see Adélard acknowledged and honoured in his village. (2019)

**The descendants of Adélard Godbout and Dorilda Fortin**

# Marie-Victorin's Explorations in Haute-Gaspésie

Upper-Gaspe Peninsula, Chic-Chocs Mountains

by Marc-Antoine DeRoy, Sainte-Anne-des-Monts (Quebec)

**M**arc-Antoine DeRoy's article was recommended by André St-Arnaud, Director of the Cercles des Jeunes Naturalistes (Nature Lovers Circles). In order to help the readers to follow Marie-Victorin in the Upper Gaspé Peninsula, from 1919 until the Forties, Marc-Antoine carefully researched the subject and was greatly helped by Montreal University's archivists. Mr. DeRoy graduated in history and law from Laval University. For the past fifteen years, he has been working with the Société d'histoire de la Haute-Gaspésie (SHHG). He is the director of the SHHG, Upper-Gaspe Peninsula History Society. He is also the manager of L'encre Noire (Black Ink) the SHHG's book store.

*He has always been very involved in the community and cultural life in Upper-Gaspé. In 2008, he organized the **Fête du bois flotté**<sup>1</sup> at Sainte-Anne-des-Monts. Since then, the annual festival of (salt-water) driftwood, collected on the banks of the Saint-Lawrence, attracts more and more artists producing driftwood sculptures inspired by local folk tales. He was director of the local volunteer centre, CAB (Centre d'action bénévole), for the Chic-Chocs (pronounced: shik-shok) region from 2012 to 2018; and was elected administrator of the Quebec Federation of CAB for a two-year mandate from 2017-2019.*

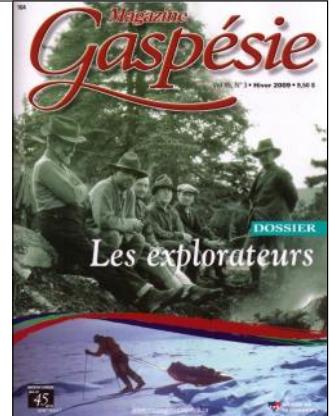
*If you go to Gaspé, make sure to visit the Gaspé Museum<sup>2</sup>, and on the way, why not stop at Sainte-Anne-des-Monts to meet Marc-Antoine. We also wish to thank Mrs. Marie-Josée Lemaire-Caplette, director of communication at the Gaspé Museum and editor in chief of Magazine Gaspésie, for granting us permission to reproduce Mr. DeRoy's article<sup>3</sup> in **Le Trésor**.*

*Enjoy reading!  
Marie Lussier Timperley*

<sup>1</sup> On a search engine enter: **Fête du Bois flotté de Sainte-Anne-des-Monts**, to read the story of the Driftwood Sculpture Festival in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts.

<sup>2</sup> On a search engine enter: **Musée de la Gaspésie**, to discover the new modern Museum.

**B**orn Conrad Kirouac, brother Marie-Victorin (1885-1944) was a man way ahead of his time, an ecclesiastic and a famous scientist, experimental and unorthodox. As part of his mission to make the inventory of all botanical species in Quebec, for him, the faraway and picturesque Gaspé peninsula was an inescapable field of research. In his most famous book, *Flore laurentienne*, (Laurentian Flora) he says that the Gaspé peninsula is a very promising area for enriching the science of plants<sup>1</sup>. He describes it as an authentic phytogeographic province<sup>1</sup>.



## Marie-Victorin's discovery of botany

In the earliest years of the 20th century, Marie-Victorin discovered botany, and the more he learned the more passionate he became about it. Until the end of the Thirties, he dreamt of writing and publishing his: *Flore laurentienne*. So, he used every opportunity to learn more. His large and inexhaustible correspondence with the most renown European and North American scientists greatly helped him. Among these correspondents was his long-time friend, Professor M. L. Fernald from the *Gray Herbarium* at Harvard University. Professor Fernald explored the Upper-Gaspé peninsula many times and his knowledge of Eastern Quebec's flora was all-encompassing. The diligent and extensive research of the famous Boston institution "showed the presence, in the Gaspé peninsula, of an impressive alpine and calcicolous flora very similar to that of the Rockies (...)"<sup>2</sup>. The American botanist keeps recommending the area to the young Quebec religious brother. During summer 1923, Fernald and Marie-Victorin missed meeting for the first time by only a few weeks when they both explored the Gaspé peninsula's interior. During his expedition, Marie-Victorin even finds a piece of paper in the footpath going to Mount Albert<sup>3</sup>. The two men became firm collaborators and, later, Marie-Victorin gave talks at Harvard.

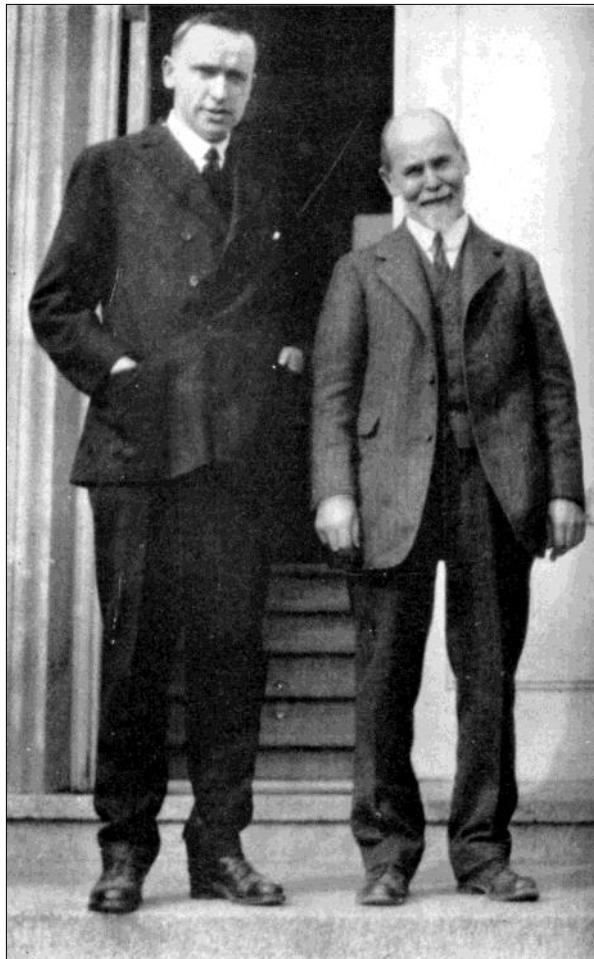
Although Fernald was the most important botany specialist of North America's Eastern part, he was certainly not the only one interested in our part of the world. In the Harvard Library there are papers written and published as a result of journeys to Jacques-Cartier and Albert Mounts starting in the mid-19th century. One considerable contribution is that of Arthur Allen<sup>4</sup>. The Geological Commission of New York State and the *American Museum of Natural History of New York* also carried out studies of the Gaspé peninsula.

<sup>1</sup> MARIE-VICTORIN, *Flore laurentienne*, 3rd edition, published by Montreal University, 1995, pp. 39-41.

<sup>2</sup> RUMILLY, Robert. *Marie-Victorin et son temps*, (MV and his time) p. 52.

<sup>3</sup> MARIE-VICTORIN. 1923 Travel Diary 1923, Montreal University Archives, p. 7.

<sup>4</sup> GASPÉSIE PENINSULA NATIONAL PARK. Gaspé Park Explorers.



Brother Marie-Victorin and his long-time friend Professor Merritt Lyndon Fernald (1873-1950), in 1924, at the entrance of the Gray Herbarium, Harvard University, USA.

Photo from Robert Rumilly's book entitled *Brother Marie-Victorin and his time*. Published in 1949 by the F.E.C. De LaSalle brothers.

### Marie-Victorin's discovery of the Gaspé peninsula

Marie-Victorin visited the great peninsula for the first time during the summer of 1919. It seems that Fernald's insistence paid off and convinced the French-speaking Canadian and his team to go. However, there are rather few mentions of these herbarial wanderings. In *Mon miroir*, his private journal, Marie-Victorin says nothing about 1918 to 1920: perhaps the creation of the **Botanical Institute** of University of Montreal combined with his ever-growing other activities somewhat perturbed his daily literary output. Nonetheless in a book about the founder of the Montreal Botanical Garden, the author, Robert Rumilly, tells us that Marie-Victorin was particularly curious to visit the Gaspé peninsula and the Magdalene's Islands because these regions being isolated were specific geographical entities, perfect units and grounds for observation. (...) The exploring

travellers were not disappointed at all. Quite the opposite as they explored Saint-Joachin-des-Tourelles, Rivière-à-Claude, Mont-Saint-Pierre, Cap-des-Rosiers, each area presented a trove of new marvellous discoveries<sup>5</sup>. For example, Marie-Victorin found the *Arnica gaspensis*, almost totally unknown outside of the Gaspé peninsula<sup>6</sup>.

The important 1923 expedition. Among the explorers let's mention Brother Rolland-Germain, the long-time quiet, competent, generous and unselfish companion. They travel from the town of Gaspé to Sainte-Anne-des-Monts by boat aboard the *Gaspesia*. Heavy fog slows them down and they arrive during the night of August first to second. The following afternoon the group is in a hurry to walk to the mountain tops following the important Sainte-Anne River. Accompanied by a guide and local porters (Pelletier, Dugas, etc.), after two to three days they finally reach Mont Albert, a botanist's paradise. The explorers encounter difficulties and pitfalls<sup>6</sup> but nevertheless they manage to successfully collect plants. It is important to note that the local Gaspé guides sometimes open up new footpaths to reach some less investigated areas. Caribou hunting is also part of their tasks<sup>7</sup>.

Because of his delicate health, Marie-Victorin came back weakened from the expedition. On August 7, he is really in pain and, very sadly, had to quit. Later on, in May 1929, on his way to Europe, he remembered and wrote: "We are sailing along the Gaspé coast and the Shikshoks (sic). It reminds me of 1923, my time on Mont Albert, the dream-like flora on the great plateau, my nervous fall, and descent from the Plaquée back to civilization, I was ill (...) and the terrible following four months (...)<sup>8</sup>

### Marie-Victorin's Return to mountainous Gaspé

In 1940, the "brother explorer" is back in Upper-Gaspé. This time he knows the area. Nonetheless, he fully enjoys the new road linking Sainte-Anne-des-Monts to the National Park<sup>9</sup>: "it is no longer needed to portage for a few days. Marie-Victorin also mentions how happy he was to meet the old Misses Pelletier and their mother<sup>10</sup>," the owners of the local hotel *À la Bonne table*. During that summer, the plants he collected along the coast are particularly noteworthy: at Fonds de Cap-Chat, then on the capes between Tourelle and Marsoui (he felt disappointed because there was not enough time to examine everything), Rivière-à-Claude (he noted: very interesting observations and plant collecting<sup>11</sup>) and Mont-Saint-Pierre where he spent quite some time in the maple grove where he had been two years before.

<sup>5</sup> RUMILY, *op cit.*, p. 77.

<sup>6</sup> On 13 August 1923, he wrote only: "Discouragement, languor, suicidal thoughts." But, Marie-Victorin is no longer part of the expedition.

<sup>7</sup> MARIE-VICTORIN. 1923 Travel diary, *op cit.*, 10 August.

<sup>8</sup> MARIE-VICTORIN. 1929 Travel diary.

<sup>9</sup> In 1937, a provincial law created the Gaspésie National Park.

<sup>10</sup> MARIE-VICTORIN. 1940 Travel Diary, Montreal University, p.10.

<sup>11</sup> He discovered the northern limit of the American Elm and compares with the Saguenay region. *Idem.*, p. 17.



Conrad Pelletier, the guide at Mont-Albert.  
Photo: Université de Montréal, E01181FP01193

In the “écorchis” area they met lots of mountain climbers; ensued lots of discussion about the remarkable and complex biological life. Colour photos are the rage then. Finally, a most unusual discovery on the beach at Mont-Louis: the *Grindelia squarrosa*, a variety of prairie plant that mysteriously landed there<sup>12</sup>. A number of times, Marie-Victorin notes that the weather at the end of August was rather cool, even cold: “we spent the night of August 21, at Mont-Saint-Pierre in the Bernatchez cabins. Cold night but nice. Again this morning, the icy north wind is blowing; we are grateful for the fire in the camp stove, it is not a luxury<sup>13</sup>.”

Marie-Victorin is not much of an ethnologist, he is a scientist almost exclusively centred on his field of study; seldom he mentions anything to do with daily life which is rather sad for the historical researcher. For example, in August 1923, when he arrived at the wharf in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, he did not think of mentioning the giant building site where a huge granite basilica was going up, (although he spent nearly twelve hours in the village). On the other hand, when he sees something unpleasant, his pen records it in harsh words. Thus, his description of the poverty in Tourelle in 1940<sup>14</sup> may well offend some people while others will look at it as a precious testimony of the situation at the time.

<sup>12</sup> *Idem.*, p. 22.

<sup>13</sup> *Idem.*, p. 18.

<sup>14</sup> *Idem.*, p. 15.



Below, transporting baggage along the Sainte-Anne River.

Photo: Université de Montréal, E01185FP01780

Marie-Victorin's expeditions in the northern part of the Gaspé peninsula are definitely extraordinary. It seems that he was the first French-speaking scientist to climb to the mountain tops in the Gaspé peninsula. Internationally known for his great achievements: the Montreal Botanical Garden, the *Flore laurentienne* and his multiple scientific works, Marie-Victorin greatly contributed to Quebec's reputation in the world. His presence in Haute-Gaspésie, in the mountains of the Gaspé Peninsula, is an important part of our regional history as well as having an important incidence on the universal history of botany.

\* The author wishes to thank three precious collaborators who helped him prepare this article: Mrs. Monique Voyer, archivist at Montreal University; Brother Gilles Beaudet, f.e.c. and Mr. François Boulanger, Director of The Gaspé National Park. Read the original article in French at: [www.museedelagaspesie.ca](http://www.museedelagaspesie.ca)



Marie-Victorin and a porter at the top of Mont-Albert.  
Photo: Université de Montréal, E01181FP02720-2

# SAD END FOR A 15-YEAR-OLD BOY

*La Presse*, Montreal daily, Wednesday, 26 October 1927

Electrocuted at work in Saint-Henri District

A steel cable accidentally touched a live electrical wire.

This morning, Coroner Prince instituted a judicial inquiry into the circumstances of the death of 15-year-old Ovila Kirouac<sup>1</sup>, who was electrocuted yesterday afternoon at the Tramway Company<sup>2</sup> power plant, on Glen Road in Westmount (Montreal) when he touched a steel cable in contact with a live 12,000-volt electrical wire. The result of the inquest was a verdict of accidental death.

According to the witnesses, the young man was working under the orders of his father, Mr. Alphonse Kirouac<sup>3</sup>, who is employed by the Reid Bros., general contractors. They were fixing a steel cable to strengthen a lift (freight elevator) built on the side of a building under construction. Mr. Paul Larente, Mr. Alphonse Kirouac and his son, Ovila, were pulling on an ordinary metal cable, in order to install the steel cable. As they were tightening the metal cable, it swayed and accidentally touched the wire of the Montreal Light, Heat and Power<sup>4</sup>. At one point, the young Ovila Kirouac touched the steel cable and he died instantly electrocuted.

The Montreal Light, Heat & Power emergency team, led by Mr. Leonard Temple, tried in vain, to resuscitate Ovila using artificial respiration for a whole hour.



Ovila Kirouac (1912-1927)  
Photo: *La Presse*, Montreal daily

<sup>1</sup> On 31 March 1912, Ovila Kirouac, was baptized Joseph Ovila Raoul Kirouac in Saint-Arsène Parish; he was born in Montreal on 29 March 1912, the son of Alphonse Kirouac (1882-1934) and Céa Langlois (1888-1942).

<sup>2</sup> In 1911, a number of urban transport companies were consolidated to form the Montreal Tramways Company (MTC) including the **Montreal Street Railway Company** and the suburban lines, **Montreal Park & Island Railway** and **Montreal Terminal Railway**; the MTC operated the tramways of Montreal until 1951.

<sup>3</sup> Alphonse Kirouac, born on 28 August 1882 in Sainte-Sophie-d'Halifax (Central Quebec region), was the son of Cyriac Kirouac (1855-1932) and his wife Adéline Bourret (1852-1893). On 14 August 1905, in Manseau, Alphonse married Marie-Céa Langlois (1888-1942) daughter of Alfred Langlois and Malvina Marchand. Seven of their nine children survived.

<sup>4</sup>-The Montreal Light, Heat & Power Company held the monopoly of electricity and gas distribution in Montreal from 1901 until its nationalization by the Quebec government on 14 April 1944 by a law creating the **Quebec Hydroelectric Commission**, known as **Hydro-Québec**, responsible for the production, transport and distribution of electricity to the whole Province. (The then Premier of Quebec was Adélard Godbout, see story pp. 26-31).



Céa Langlois (1888-1942)  
Photo: nosorigines.qc.ca



The 8466 Saint-Hubert Street, Montreal, where the Kirouac family lived at the time of Ovila's death.

## Extra notes about this Kirouac family from Montreal

We owe this story like many others, to André St-Arnaud's patient research. This time he unearthed this article published in October 1927 in *La Presse*, Montreal's largest French daily.

Ovila's paternal grandfather, Cyriac Kirouac was born in L'Islet. In the 1891 Canadian census, Cyriac's family lived in the village of Sainte-Sophie d'Halifax in the Bois-Francs region. In the 1901 Canadian census, the family was established 36 miles north in Sainte-Sophie-de-Lévrard in the Bécancour County. This last village was only nine miles from what will later become Manseau. Manseau was founded in 1905 as Saint-Joseph-de-Blandford. Cyriac was part of the first group of churchwardens in the parish of Manseau in the Lotbinière County. In 1908, Cyriac was elected to the first municipal council of Manseau and was also its Post Master in 1911 and 1912.

# EDWARD SYLVESTER CURWICK<sup>1</sup>

(1933-2020)



Four generations, Ed, proud great-grandfather with his eldest son, Brian, his granddaughter, Amanda, Brian's daughter and mother of baby Emberly. (Photo Curwick family collection)



Edward Curwick bought this 1930 Model A Ford several years ago from a Minnesota owner. It was shipped to his home in Bishop, California, where he was the president of the Model A Club. Ed was constantly improving and restoring this beauty, interior and exterior. That included adding hydraulic brakes with modern front disc and rear drum brakes, turn signals and a down draft carburetor.  
(Photo: Curwick family collection)

**E**dward was born November 26, 1933 in Ghent, Minnesota and died August 24, 2020 in Reno, Nevada. He and his wife lived in Bishop, California with his wife of 39 years, Joyce Ellen Hill Curwick. Taught by father Leo, he became a premier auto mechanic as a teenager and continued his career for more than sixty years. His mother's name was Mary Valerie Baert Curwick. God blessed her and Leo with eleven children. Ed was the fifth of eleven children born (between 1927 and 1947) to Leo Elmer Curwick (1899-1992) and Mary Valerie Baert (1907-1981).

Sergeant Ed Curwick was proud to be a United States Marine from 1953 through 1956, in post-Korean War service in Okinawa, Japan. Also proud of his membership in the Marine Corps League, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. Always a great marine, *Semper Fi* (always faithful). He enjoyed his career with Ford Motors and GTE. In semi-retirement he roamed the US searching out Curwick cousins, especially those around Kankakee, Illinois.

Ed never wavered in his love and support for his family. He leaves to remember and cherish; his wife Joyce, seven children, Brian, Brenda, Gregg, Debrah (Chris), Cathy (Mark), Drew, and Daren, his five grandchildren, Kris (Michelle) Greening, Amanda (David) Reynolds, Nathan Hickman, Hailey and Jacqueline Schmeling, and four greats, Madelynn, Ashlynn and Ryder Greening and Emberly Reynolds. Also mourned by his living sisters, Marie Sullivan, Kay Drown, Ginnie Steinfadt, and Valerie Jacob, and brother, LeRoy. Predeceased by sisters Eileen Thanghe, Alverna DeRoode, Elizabeth Nemitz and brothers Bernard and Lawrence.

Since 2012, a number of articles about the Curwicks were printed in *Le Trésor* including one about the first great gathering<sup>2</sup> where 290 descendants of Joseph-Napoleon Curwick and his wife Caroline Patenaude met on 3-5 August 2012.

Our deepest condolences to all members of the family.

*The Editor of Le Trésor des Kirouac*

<sup>1</sup> The Kirouac connection for all the Minnesota Curwicks is through their great-grandfather Polycarpe (Paul) Kirouac dit Breton, **GFK-00178** (1815-1880) and his second wife, Suzanne Bellegarde. The name changed from Kérouac to Curwick with the grandfather, Joseph Napoleon Curwick (1870-1956). To find out how, read Greg Kyrouac's article entitled *THE K/FAMILIES IN ILLINOIS, USA*, published in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 106, winter 2011, pp 7-14.

<sup>2</sup> See *Le Trésor des Kirouac* number 110, winter 2012-2013, pp 13-18.

# ROGER BRUNELLE (1934-2021)

## A GREAT ADMIRER OF JACK KEROUAC

*It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of professor Roger Brunelle on 10 February 2021 in Lowell, Mass. The Kirouac Family Association was privileged to welcome him at a special luncheon on 25 November 2012 at the restaurant Le Petit Coin Breton in Sainte-Foy, Quebec, during the anniversary weekend Québec/Kerouac 2012.*

*It was wonderful to be able to put to him many questions concerning our Franco-American cousin which he gladly answered to our great benefit. Our exchanges were published in Trésor, number 113 and 114 in 2013.*

*This first meeting with Roger Brunelle in Quebec City was followed by two trips made by some of us to Nashua and Lowell to film various places where Jack Kerouac and his family lived. Those visits were all the more beneficial thanks to Mr. Brunelle adding his rich knowledge of the places where our Franco-American cousin grew up. These videos are available on the KFA Website.*

*In my name and in the name of the KFA Board members I wish to express our sincere condolences to Mr. Roger Brunelle's wife and his family.*

*May He Rest In Peace!*

*François Kirouac*

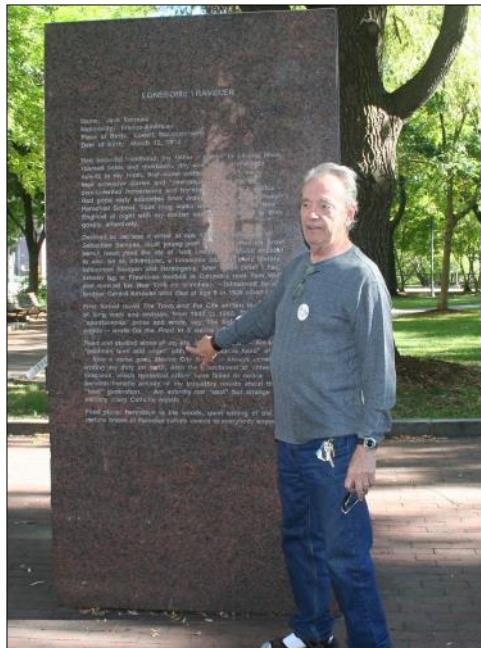
### BRUNELLE, ROGER J. (1934-2021)

28 November 1934 – 10 February 2021 - Lowell, Massachusetts

Roger J. Brunelle, age 86, a longtime resident of Lowell, died 10 February 2021 at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. He was the beloved husband of Alyce A. (Sedlevich) Brunelle, to whom he was married for 48 years. Born in Lowell on 28 November 1934, he was the son of the late Rudolphe and Yvonne (Levy) Brunelle. He received his early education at St. Louis School in Lowell; did his high school at the Séminaire de Sherbrooke, Quebec; earned his bachelor's degree from St. John Seminary in Brighton and his Master's Degree in Linguistics from Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont. Roger served his country in the United States Army. During 48 years, he taught French and Latin in the public high-schools of Dracut, Lowell, Ayer, and Nashua, New Hampshire. Roger was a member of the Lowell VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars), Post 662.

He was an avid reader, especially of Latin and Roman history, and he enjoyed writing. He was very proud of his French-Canadian heritage and was a longtime member of the **Franco-American Day Committee**. He was also a founding member of **Lowell Celebrates Kerouac** and created **Kerouac Tours of Lowell** which he led for 35 years for visitors from all over the world.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, Denis (Nicole) Brunelle; a daughter, Dr. Stephanie Brunelle and her partner Lorence Heikell; three grandchildren, Raymond Brunelle, Luke Brunelle and Carmela Brunelle; a step-grandson, Sam Heikell; a brother, André (Linda) Brunelle; a sister, Muriel Brunelle Frechette; and many nephews, nieces and cousins. He was also the brother of the late Ronald Brunelle and the brother-in-law of the late Leo "Butch" Frechette and Ruth Brunelle. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a private funeral was held.



# IN MEMORIAM

## BLANCHET, CLAUDE (1954-2020)

At Radford, Virginia, on 11 August 2020, died suddenly aged 66 years and three months Mr. Claude Blanchet, spouse of Claire Frenette. He was the son of the late Jacqueline Kirouac and the late Charles-Henri Blanchet, and the grandson of Charles Kirouac (**GFK 00405**) and Maria Boissonneault. He lived in Rivière-du-Loup, Quebec. He leaves to mourn his spouse, Claire Frenette; his son, Dominick (Mélissa Poitras); his grandson, Mio. He was the brother of the late France (Normand Brousseau), André (Johanne Durand), Daniel (Renée Fréchette), the late Michel, Richard, and Francine (Richard Auclair); as well as many relatives and friends from the Blanchet family.

## BURKE, FRANCES KIROUAC (1926-2021)

Frances T. Burke, age 94 of Wolcott, Conn., died on 7 January 2021 at Naugatuck, Conn. Widow of George Burke. Frances was born 3 October 1926, in Waterbury, Conn., daughter of Napoleon (son of Octave Kirouac {**GFK 00273**}) and Emma (Boisvert) Kirouac. Left to honor Frances' love and legacy are her children, Peggy Goffredo, Frances and Ken Creem, and daughter-in-law, Michelle Burke. Frances leaves six grandchildren, Jessica, Heather, Brian, Jeff, Jordan and Jonathan and four great-grandchildren, Ayden, Riley, McKenna and Avery Louise. She also leaves many extended family members. She was predeceased by her children, Douglas Burke and Sharon Bennett; great-grandson Griffin Cardwell; her six brothers and sisters. Funeral service was on 12 January at St. Francis Xavier Church, Waterbury, followed by interment at Calvary Cemetery.

## BURTON, RONALD (1935-2021)

Ronald "Ron" Burton, 85, of Bradley, Ill., passed away Jan. 2, 2021, at St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee, Ill.. Ron was born Dec. 8, 1935, in Kankakee, the son of Francis and Ethel Drazy Burton (and great-grandson of GFK 02732). He married Donna Hammond on July 23, 1955, at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Kankakee. Ron proudly served in the U.S. Navy. Surviving are his wife of 65 years, Donna Burton, of Bradley; five daughters, Barbara (James) Hanlon, Christine (Lanny) Magruder, Vicki (Rick) Taylor, Sandy Paraday, and Rhonda (Ronald) Goad; one brother, Robert (Sharon) Burton; seven grandchildren; twenty-two great-grandchildren; and eleven great-great-grandchildren. Preceding him in death were his parents; one granddaughter; and one great-grandson. Private family services will be held in Kankakee.

## CARUSO-KEROUACK, MARY (1960-2021)

Mary Kerouack of Bedford, N.H., passed away at home on January 20, 2021. She was born in Laconia, N.H., to Robert Drake Caruso and Beverly Ann (Bean) Glidden on August 14, 1960. She graduated from Laconia High School. On July 2, 1986, Mary married Jim Kerouack (grandson of Henry Kerouack {**GFK 00038**}) and settled in Manchester, N.H. They raised two children and created memories with their five grandchildren: Ryan, Mason, Lily, Kroy, and Abel. Mary is survived by her Husband Jim Kerouack, a son, Chris Oliver (Kelly), and a daughter Savannah Kerouack; mother Beverly and Jim Glidden; sisters Cindy Gilbert, Becky Caruso; brothers Tony Caruso, Warren and Carol Caruso, and

Jason Caruso; many nieces and nephews. Mary was predeceased by her father Robert and brother Bobby (2/7/2020). A private service was held on January 23, 2021. A celebration of life will take place during the summer in Bedford, N.H.

## CURWICK, EDWARD (1933-2020)

Ed was born November 26, 1933, in Ghent, Minnesota and died August 24, 2020 in Reno, Nevada. wife of 39 years, Joyce Ellen Hill Curwick. He leaves to mourn, his wife Joyce, seven children, Brian, Brenda, Gregg, Debrah (Chris), Cathy (Mark), Drew, and Daren, his five grandchildren, Kris (Michelle) Greening, Amanda (David) Reynolds, Nathan Hickman, Hailey and Jacqueline Schmeling, and four greats, Madelynn, Ashlynn and Ryder Greening and Emberly Reynolds. Also mourned by his living sisters, Marie Sullivan, Kay Drown, Ginnie Steinfadt, and Valerie Jacob, and brother, LeRoy. Predeceased by sisters Eileen Thanghe, Alverna DeRoode, Elizabeth Nemitz and brothers Bernard and Lawrence. See p. 37.

## CURWICK-SULLIVAN, MARIE-LOUISE (1931-2021)

Marie Louise Sullivan died 25 February 2021 in Marshall, Minn., three months shy of her 90th birthday. "Mitchie" to family and friends, was born 17 May 1931, the fourth of eleven children, of Leo and Mary (Baert) Curwick\* in Ghent, Minn. She married Thomas B. Sullivan on 22 September 1949 at St. Eloi Catholic Church in Ghent. They spent 49 years together raising their nine children in Marshall, Minn., and Norfolk, Nebraska. In Marshall she worked from 1977 until 1999, then spent her remaining years caring for and worrying about her children and grandchildren. She was an active member of Holy Redeemer Church. Marie was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Thomas, daughter

Cynthia Schurr, sisters Eileen Thanghe, Alverna DeRoode, Elizabeth Nemitz-Berkes and brothers Bernard, Edward and Lawrence. She is survived by daughters Kerry (Ken) Braithwait, Erin (Scott) Zlomke, Abigail (Randy) Sullivan-Appel, sons Kevin (Crystal), Kirby (Mary Claire), James (Terry), Murray, and Thomas (Wendy), son-in-law Stan Schurr; 22 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren; siblings Kay Drown, Leroy (Kay) Curwick, Ginnie Steinfadt, and Val (Tom) Jakob. Mass of Christian Burial was on 1 March 2021 at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Marshall. Followed by interment at Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Marshall. **\*granddaughter of Joseph Napoleon Curwick (1870-1956) and great-granddaughter of Polycarpe Kirouac dit Breton (GFK-00178) (1815-1880).**

#### **DARRAH-KIROUAC, JOYCE MARIE (1945-2021)**

Joyce Marie Darrah-Kirouac, age 75, of Evansdale, Iowa, died in Waterloo, Iowa. Joyce was born on 2 March 1945 in Salt Lake City, Utah. The daughter of the late Harold and Lucille (Meints) Goldsmith. She was preceded in death by a great-granddaughter and a stepson, Mark Kirouac. Joyce was married to the love of her life, Roland Roger Kirouac {GFK 02042}. She is survived by a stepdaughter Donna Kirouac; her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She also leaves two siblings, and many nieces and nephews. Visitation was at the Waterloo 7th Day Adventist on 20 February 2021.

#### **DROLET, LUCIEN (1930-2020)**

At Laval Hospital in Quebec City, on 22 December 2020, aged 90, died Lucien Drolet, son of the late Blanche\* Kirouac (GFK 00577) and the late Arthur Drolet. He was the husband of Thérèse Bédard, the

father of Sylvie and Martin (Dominique Quirion), the grandfather of Léonard Quirion-Drolet. He leaves one sister, Monique. He is now with his other siblings, Maurice (Lucille Poirier), Jean-Charles (Rita Blouin), Madeleine (Paul Létourneau), Roger, s.j., Roland (Viviane Laberge) and Cécile. He was the brother-in-law of the late Gaston, the late Madeleine and the late Raymond Bédard (Pierrette Baron). He also leaves to mourn many relatives and friends. **\*Her brother was Conrad Kirouac, a.k.a. Brother Marie-Victorin.**

#### **GIROUX, RAYNALD (1941-2020)**

At Enfant-Jésus Hospital, Quebec City, on 15 November 2020, aged 78, died Raynald Giroux, spouse of Colette Lévesque. He was the son of the late **Élisabeth Kirouac (GFK 02649)** and the late **Charles-Auguste Giroux**. He leaves to mourn his wife, Colette Lévesque, his children, Éric (Kathleen Martel) and Patrice, his grandchildren, Émilianne and Samuel, his sister, Viola (André Simard), his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law from the Lévesque family: Solange (Victor Picard), Madeleine (the late Martin Thériault), Bérangère (the late André Bédard), Jean-Claude, Raymonde (Alain Ouellet), Janine, Brigitte, Mireille, Raymond, Louise (Douglas Lesco), Louisette, Jocelyne (Denis Caron), Marilène (Yvon Fortin), the late Michèle and Louis Desjardins (the late Gisèle Lévesque). He was interred at the Giffard Cemetery.

#### **KEROUAC, VIRGINIA KATHERINE CHARKIS (1941-2021)**

Virginia Katherine "Ginny" "Jeanny", née Charkis, Kerouac, 80, of Hollis, N.H., died on March 3, 2021. She married Adrian Kerouac [son of GFK 01517} in 1963. She leaves to mourn her husband and her son Jason Kerouac; her brother James Charkis. She is survived by many nephews and nieces and lots

of friends. At her request, all services will be held privately in Nashua, N.H.

#### **KIROUAC, ANDRÉ (1937-2020)**

At L'Ancienne-Lorette, on 19 November 2020, aged 83, died André Kirouac (GFK 00608), husband of Joscelyne Auclair. He was the son of the late Lauréat Kirouac and the late Juliette Bussières. Beside his wife, he leaves to mourn his children: Sylvie (André Desgagné), Richard, Steeve (Danielle Brisson) and Dave (Josée Goupil); his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is now with his brothers and sisters: Thérèse (Henri Parent), Marcelle (Roger Beaumont), Marie-Paule (Rosaire Dionne), Madeleine (Yvon Bélanger), Jacqueline (Rosaire Michaud), René, Jean-Guy (Janette Guay still living) and Claude. He leaves many relatives. A Celebration of Life was held at S. Marceau Funeral Home in L'Ancienne-Lorette.

#### **KIROUAC, MARIE-PAULE (1938-2021)**

Marie-Paule Kirouac (GFK 02238) died on 6 January 2021, at the age of 82, at Maison Aube-Lumière, palliative care home in Sherbrooke, Quebec, where she had been the first general director. She was the daughter of the late Armand Kirouac and the late Marie-Ange C. Després. She leaves to mourn her sons François (Manon) and Ivan (Johanne); her grandchildren: Étienne (Florence) and Évelyne (their mother Céline), Sophie and Ariane; her siblings: Pierrette, Jacques (the late Lise), Fernando, Rachel (André) and René\* (Sylvie); her sister-in-law Rosa; nephews and nieces, Pierre, Michel, Richard, Martine, Yves and Dominic; her aunts Julienne and Denise (Jean), her spouse Jacques and his children as well as many cousins and friends. She was also the sister of the late Yvon (Rosa), the late Mariette (the late Larry) and the late Lise. Due to present restrictions, a celebration of

life will take place at a later date, to be announced in La Tribune, Sherbrooke's daily. \*René, KFA treasurer. She was responsible for organizing the wonderful KFA annual gathering held in Sherbrooke (Quebec) on 13-15 August 2010.

### KIROUAC, PAUL (1936-2020)

At Greenfield Park (Montreal south -shore) on 19 July 2020, died Paul Kyrouac (**GFK 00801**), aged 84, husband of Pauline Beaudoin. Born on 29 June 1936 in Warwick, he was the son of Robert Kyrouac and Lumina Labrecque. Besides his wife he leaves to mourn his daughter Guylaine (Marc), his sons Pierre, Alain, his grandchildren Simon, Vincent, Charlotte, Thierry, William, his siblings and many relatives and friends. Due to Covid restrictions, a very private ceremony was held. Paul was the brother of Clément Kyrouac, former KFA president, 1994-2000. Paul and his wife, Pauline, were part of the Return to The Sources Voyage in Brittany, 3 to 18 July 2000.

### KIROUAC, PHYLLIS (1935-2020)

Phyllis Kyrouac (**GFK 02655**) died on 12 December 2020, aged 85. She was the daughter of Laura Rail and Frederick Kyrouac. Born in Douglastown, on the Gaspé coast, along the Saint-Lawrence shore, where she grew up and lived all her life. She leaves to mourn her husband of 65 years, Bert (Edward Holland), her four daughters: Gwen (Jay) Thornton, Laura (Tyran) Morris, Jeanine (Bob Young), and Barbara (Darko Lisak) and her four grandsons: Evan, Ryan (Victoria), Dejan and Cormick; as well as her brother, Andrew Kyrouac. She is now with her parents, her sister, Della, and her brother, Omer. Funeral will be at a later date.

### KIROUAC, THÉRÈSE (1931-2021)

At Le Concorde Hotel, Quebec City, on 10 January 2021, aged 89, died from Covid, Thérèse Kyrouac (**GFK 00546**). Born in Quebec City

on 25 March 1931, she was the daughter of Émile Kyrouac and Léontine Marois. Given the restrictions due to Covid, there was no ceremony. Her ashes will be placed in St-Charles Cemetery, Quebec City, on 10 June 2021. She leaves to mourn her daughter, Hélène Roy; her grandchildren: François Grenier (Sylvia Rotbart), Jean-Philippe Grenier (Émilie Hogue), Pierre-Luc Grenier; her great-grandchildren: Filip, Sara-Jade, Nelly; her sister Simone (the late Laurent Masson); her brothers: the late Roland (the late Mariette Pouliot), the late Raymond (the late Jeannette Robitaille Côté), Gabriel (the late Jeannine Simard), Jean-Marie (the late Aline Montmigny), the late Henri (the late Yvette Lapointe); nieces: Marie Kyrouac, Linda Kyrouac, Julie Kyrouac and many nephews, cousins and friends. **Thérèse's brother, Roland Kyrouac, with his wife and son, Louis, were KFA founding members. Roland was also the KFA auditor from 1986 to 2009.**

### KYROUAC, JOHN R. (1937-2021)

John R. Kyrouac, age 83, died at home in Gardner on 25 March 2021. Born 15 October 1937 in Bourbonnais, Illinois, John Roger Kyrouac (**GFK 00218**) was a son of Alfred, Sr. and Lauducia "Lottie" (Bottari) Kyrouac. He served honorably in the United States Coast Guard and United States Navy from 1957 to 1961, and was stationed on the USS Macon. John was a past member of Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Bourbonnais, and worked at the George D. Roper Corporation in Kankakee and later for Dresden Nuclear Generating Station as a security guard. He loved outdoors, gardening and fishing. He leaves to mourn his three children: Joel Kyrouac, Holly (Steven) Savoie, and Thomas (Jackie) Kyrouac; four grandchildren: Ashley Gomez, Amanda Kyrouac, Christopher Savoie, and Sean Savoie; six great grandchildren: David, Yandel, Jayden, Isaac, Natasha, and Sincere;

one sister, Patricia Onken, numerous nieces and nephews; his former wife and mother of his children, Elizabeth Fennell-Laskonis. John was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Mary (née Garner) Kyrouac, five brothers and sisters: Kenneth "Skeez" Kyrouac, Alfred "Beau" Kyrouac, Terrance "Terry" Kyrouac, Carol Neveau, and Joan Kyrouac in infancy. Cremation services and memorial arrangements in care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Coal City, Illinois.

### NEVEAU, CAROL A. (1928-2020)

Carol A. Neveau (**GFK 00217**), 92, of Bradenton, Fla., formerly of Bourbonnais and Chebanse, Illinois, passed away Dec. 23, 2020, at Surrey Place Healthcare and Rehabilitation in Bradenton, Fla. She was born Sept. 13, 1928, in Bourbonnais, the daughter of Alfred and Laudicia "Lotty" (Bottary) Kyrouac. Carol married Orville Neveau on Nov. 11, 1967. He preceded her in death Jan. 21, 2002. Surviving are two stepchildren, Nanette (James) Marx, and David Neveau; one sister, Pat Onken; one brother, John Kyrouac, and many nephews and nieces. She was preceded in death by a sister, Joan Kyrouac; and three brothers, Kenneth Kyrouac Sr., Alfred "Beau" Kyrouac and Terrance Kyrouac. Funeral Mass was at Maternity B.V.M. Catholic Church in Bourbonnais, followed by interment in All Saints Cemetery, Bourbonnais.



**Our Deepest Condolences  
to the  
Bereaved Families**

# GENEALOGY / THE READERS' PAGE

*The KFA's computerized genealogical database comprises a number of persons' names for which we are missing either the spouse and/or the parents' names. Answers to the following questions would enable us to complete our data. Feel free to consult previous issues of *Le Trésor* and forward us the relevant info.*

*With many thanks,  
François Kirouac*

## Question 728

What are the names of the parents of Kenneth Morello, spouse of Pauline Mercier, daughter of Arthur Mercier and Irène Kerouac? They were married on 7 October 1950 at Nashua, New Hampshire.

## Question 729

What are the names of the parents of Bruce Barnett, first married to Rita Mercier, daughter of Arthur Mercier and Irène Kerouac? They were married on 24 September 1948. Where exactly were they married?

## Question 730

What are the names of the parents of Raymond Vigneault, second spouse of Rita Mercier, daughter of Arthur Mercier and Irène Kerouac? They were married on 5 April 1973. Where exactly were they married?

## Question 731

What are the names of the parents of Frank Urban, first married to Theresa Mercier, daughter of Arthur Mercier and Irène Kerouac? They were married on 3 January 1942 at Manchester, New Hampshire. Where exactly were they married?

## Question 732

What are the names of the parents of Laurent Sévigny, second husband of Theresa Mercier, daughter of Arthur Mercier and Irène Kerouac? They were possibly married in 1950. What is the exact date of the wedding and where did it take place?

## Question 733

What are the names of the parents of Jeanne Rabeneau, wife of Robert Mercier, son of Arthur Mercier and Irène Kerouac? They were married on 11 May 1942. Where exactly were they married?

## Question 734

What are the names of the parents of Mary Jane Rodgers, wife of Henri Fraser, son of Henry Fraser and Eva Kerouac? They were married on 11 November 1956 at Bryan, Brazos County, Texas, USA.

## Question 735

What are the names of the parents of Marjorie McCauley, first wife of Edward Fraser, son of Henry Fraser and Eva Kerouac? They were married on 3 August 1952 at Rochester, Strafford County in New Hampshire, USA.

## Question 736

What are the names of the parents of Laura Beausoleil, second wife of Edward Fraser, son of Henry Fraser and Eva Kerouac? They were married on 4 July 1964. Where exactly were they married?

## Question 737

What are the names of the parents of Jacqueline Leclair, spouse of Clément Cormier, son of Leeroy Cormier and Liliane Kirouac?

## Question 738

What are the names of the parents of James Compton, spouse of Hélène Cormier, daughter of Leeroy Cormier and Liliane Kirouac?

## Question 739

What are the names of the parents of Chantal Paré, spouse of Gilbert Cormier, son of Leeroy Cormier and Liliane Kirouac?

## Question 740

What are the names of the parents of Lisa Dankawick, spouse of Roland Lacroix, son of Roméo Lacroix and Jeanne Kirouac?

## Question 741

What are the names of the parents of Terry Koop, spouse of Margot Lacroix, daughter of Roméo Lacroix and Jeanne Kirouac?

## Question 742

What are the names of the parents of Laurie Rodgers, spouse of René Lacroix, son of Roméo Lacroix and Jeanne Kirouac?

## Question 743

What are the names of the parents of Marcel Lambert, spouse of Lorraine Cormier, daughter of Richard Cormier and Yvette Kirouac?

## Question 744

What is the name of the spouse of Denis Cormier, son of Richard Cormier and Yvette Kirouac? What are the names of her parents?

## Question 745

What are the names of the parents of Linda Lempky, spouse of Roger Cormier, son of Richard Cormier and Yvette Kirouac?

Please send us your genealogical questions and we will try to find the answers.

It will be a pleasure to print the answers in a future *Trésor*.

The Editor

## KIROUAC FAMILY ASSOCIATION - BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2020-2021

<b>PRESIDENT</b> François Kirouac (00715) Lévis (Quebec)	<b>TREASURER</b> René Kirouac (02241) Quebec (Quebec)	<b>COUNSELLOR</b> Jean-Louis Kérouac (02071) Quebec (Quebec)
<b>1st VICE-PRESIDENT</b> <b>MEETING SECRETARY</b> Céline Kirouac (00563) Québec (Quebec)	<b>COUNSELLOR</b> Marie Kirouac (00840) Quebec (Quebec)	<b>COUNSELLOR</b> Two vacant positions
<b>2nd VICE-PRESIDENT</b> Marc Villeneuve Chicoutimi (Quebec)	<b>COUNSELLOR</b> Mercédès Bolduc Chicoutimi (Quebec)	

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Region 1 QUÉBEC, BEAUCE-APPALACHES Marie Kirouac (00840) Quebec (Quebec)	Region 4 MAURICIE, BOIS-FRANCS, EASTERN TOWNSHIPS Vacant	Region 7 UNITED STATES <b>EASTERN TIME ZONE</b> Mark Pattison Washington, DC, USA
Region 2 MONTRÉAL, OUTAOUAIS, ABITIBI Vacant	Region 5 SAGUENAY, LAC-SAINT-JEAN Mercédès Bolduc Chicoutimi (Quebec)	<b>CENTRAL TIME ZONE</b> Greg Kyrouac (00239) Ashland, IL USA
Region 3 CÔTE-DU-SUD, BAS-SAINT-LAURENT, GASPÉSIE AND MARITIMES Lucille Kirouac (01307) Saint-François-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud (Quebec)	Region 6 ONTARIO AND WESTERN PROVINCES Georges Kirouac (01663) Winnipeg (Manitoba)	

## KFA BOARD MEMBERS

### AND REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES/CORRESPONDENTS

CAN ALL BE REACHED AT THE FOLLOWING EMAIL ADDRESS:

[association@familleskirouac.com](mailto:association@familleskirouac.com)

## KIROUAC FAMILY ASSOCIATION PERMANENT COMMITTEES

**LE TRÉSOR DES KIROUAC**  
Responsible: Marie Kirouac  
Writing and producing the bulletin  
(in alphabetical order)  
François Kirouac  
Marie Kirouac  
Greg Kyrouac  
Mark Pattison  
Marie Lussier Timperley

**HISTORY AND GENEALOGY**  
Responsible: François Kirouac  
(in alphabetical order)  
Céline Kirouac  
François Kirouac  
Lucille Kirouac  
Greg Kyrouac

**JACK KEROUAC OBSERVATORY**  
Responsible: Eric Waddell

**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
Vacant

**PRODUCTS & AUDIO-VISUAL ARCHIVES**  
Vacant

**WEBSITE**  
Webmaster: Réjean Brassard

Our Motto  
**Pride Dignity Integrity**



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## ANNUAL MEETING POSTPONED TO 2022

DID YOU RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021?  
IT IS YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE RESEARCH AND COMPILING  
OF THE HISTORY OF THE DESCENDANTS OF  
ALEXANDRE DE KERVOACH  
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

**To contact us or receive information about our activities:**

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