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Number 144

Le Trésor des Kirouac

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



Tribute to the oldest member of our family association, Gabrielle Hurtubise Lafrenière (1918-2024)
(Photos: Courtesy of the Lafrenière family)



Kirouac
Kirouack



Kérouac
Kérouack



Keroac
Keroack



Kéroack
Kyrouac



Breton
Burton



Curwack
Curwick



Le Trésor des Kirouac

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The President's Word

In the previous issue of *Le Trésor*, no 143, I mentioned the new legal dispositions in Quebec about the protection of personal information, a new provincial legislation our association must comply with. On 17 February, at our Board meeting, it was decided that the KFA needed its own policy regarding the protection of personal info. As required by Quebec's Law 25. Within a few days, the text was put on the KFA Website. Simply click on the tab "Association" to read it; you can also download the PDF file.

Upcoming changes in our Association

With two new Board members, we have put on our thinking caps to find new ways of distributing various tasks and share the workload. This could affect our general rules and regulations. All will be proposed to the members at the 2024 September annual general meeting.

Next *Trésor*, Number 145

In 2004, *Le Trésor*, number 75, marked the 60th anniversary of Marie-Victorin's accidental death. Conrad Kirouac was remembered through many pages about him and his family, also including a list of newspaper articles published at the time. Lucie Jasmin, responsible for our Marie-Victorin Observatory, added an article about Madeleine Gervais, Marie-Victorin's last secretary, whom she met in 2003 with Marie Lussier Timperley.

This year marks the 80th anniversary so in the next *Trésor*, number 145, it is an occasion to look at Marie-Victorin's remarkable legacy, the influence his life still has on our world. Therefore, this is an invitation to you, the readers, to take part in this homage to a scientist, botanist,

writer and poet. How about writing a few lines or a few paragraphs, about what Marie-Victorin means to you. How his life and works are still influencing today's scientific life.

Social media and Internet

I take it for granted that you know about the KFA's page on *Facebook*, but do you know that our *Facebook* page counts over 620 regular subscribers? This is the proof that there is an interest in the Kirouacs, our clan, its many families and certain key personages. However, I would like to find a way to entice more of these people to join the Kirouac Family Association?

We know that our revamped website attracts visitors. In the last 71 months, since it was put on line, over 5,800 people visited it, that is around 341 visitors per month. People consult our website to find pertinent information about the Kirouacs. But what else could we provide on our website to attract more of these visitors to become KFA members? We would love to know what you think. So, please write to us, share your thoughts and suggestions at our email address:

associationfamilleskirouac@gmail.com

Latest additions to our website

In January, we added a tenth Special Edition of *Le Trésor*; 84 pages about descendants of our *de Kervoach* ancestor through the female lines. Also available is a biography of Guy Kirouac, an important Warwick businessman, written by Luc Boulanger in collaboration with the Kirouac Family Association and the Warwick Historical Society; Warwick in the Bois-Francs Region of Quebec, is the town



Photo: François Kirouac collection

François Kirouac

where both Luc Boulanger and I grew up.

Another 250-page document is in preparation about Onésime Kirouac, Guy's grandfather. Once again it is the result of teamwork between Luc Boulanger, the KFA and the Warwick Historical Society. It will be put online in a few months. We will let you know as soon as it is.

The death of the dean of our members

On February 2nd, Gaby, the oldest member of our Association, passed away at the venerable age of 105. A long and full life. We will not forget it. We have prepared a few souvenir pages in this *Trésor*.

On behalf of myself and the members of the Association, I would like to offer my deepest condolences to all the members of her family.



2024 KIROUAC FAMILY REUNION

Royal Canadian Military College at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

In September 2024, please join us to discover an exceptional historical site, rarely open to the public, the Royal Canadian Military College at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu.

In June 1944, some members of our families took part in D-Day, we remember, and, in July, Marie-Victorin died in a car accident. Eighty years later, let's commemorate these two events by gathering in a very important institution of learning and military heritage.

Saturday, 7 September 2024

- 9:00 am: Registration for the AGM, luncheon, and evening dinner, and Sunday guided tour.
- 10:00 am: KFA Annual General Meeting
- 11:30 am: Cocktail
- 12:00 noon: Cold Buffet
- 1:00 pm: Guest Speaker (to be confirmed)
- 2:00 pm: Visit of Fort St-Jean Museum and Military College (<https://www.cmrsj-rmcsj.forces.gc.ca/index-eng.asp>)
- 5:00 pm: The activities will be followed by dinner in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu.



Royal Canadian Military College and Fort Saint-Jean Museum at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu (Quebec)
(Photo credit: Fort Saint-Jean Museum)

Sunday, 8 September 2024 (to be confirmed)

10:00 am: Guided tour of Fort Chambly, a National Historic Site located on the Richelieu River. The fortification dates back to 1711 and is one of the most important examples of 17th and 18th centuries forts built in the style of Vauban (1633-1707), military engineer to King Louis 14th (<https://parks.canada.ca/lhn-nhs/qc/fortchambly>). Or, a visit to Musée du Haut-Richelieu, Upper-Richelieu Museum in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. (<https://museeduhaut-ricHELIEU.com>) (website in French)

12:00 noon: End of visits. See you next year.



Upper-Richelieu Museum at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, (*Le Musée du Haut-Richelieu*) promotes regional history and heritage; also highlights Quebec old and new ceramics. (Photo credit: Wikipedia)



Fort Chambly (Photo credit : bonjourquebec.com)

The National Historic Site of Fort Chambly, located on the Richelieu River; one of the most important examples of 17th and 18th centuries fortification built in the style of Vauban, French engineer to the king.

GABRIELLE at 105, GABY'S POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT IS NEWSWORTHY

Press Review by Marie Lussier Timperley

On 2 February 2024, the oldest member of the Kirouac Family Association died (In Memoriam, p.44). From the beginning of the KFA, Gaby followed all our association's activities. She did not want to miss anything.¹ In July 2000, she took part in the KFA journey, *Return to the Sources, in Brittany*. Then, in 2003, she was on the organizing committee for the Kirouac Family Association's 25th anniversary held in Longueuil.

The **COURRIER DU SUD**, (Southern Courier), a French-speaking free daily tabloid paper covering Montreal South-Shore, published an article to honour the 105-year-old grandmother, whose grandson is a Quebec deputy and minister! The article written by Sylvain Daignault entitled *Les 105 ans de Gabrielle Hurtubise: l'engagement (politique) d'une grand-mère de ministre* (Gabrielle Hurtubise's 105th birthday: the (political) commitment of a minister's grandmother), was the Editor's Choice for the Sunday edition, 21 January 2024. The journalist was proud to present Gaby, the lady who reached 105 on 27 December 2023, with a clear and sharp memory.

During her life, Mrs. Lafreniere was involved in politics, particularly in the provincial Liberal Party. She was always very proud of her grandson, Ian Lafreniere, the current Provincial Deputy for the Vachon riding and minister responsible for the Relations with the First Nations and the Inuits!

She modestly added: *Let's say I have been a bit more involved than most people*. In 1940, when men enlisted in the army, Miss Hurtubise went to work at the Northern Electric factory and stayed eight years.



Shirley Dorismond, deputy for Marie-Victorin district presents Mrs. Gabrielle Hurtubise-Lafrenière with a certificate for her 105th birthday.
(Photo: Lafrenière family collection)



Ian Lafrenière, teenager, with his grandmother, Gabrielle.
(Photo: Lafrenière family collection)

Gabrielle, known to all as Gaby, married Paul Lafrenière in 1946. They had a son, Germain, and a daughter, Pauline. She was a strong believer, and for forty years volunteered in the Catholic Church, particularly in The National Ascending Life movement, organizing pilgrimages and trips that took her to Haiti, Africa and Europe, including to the Vatican where she met Pope John-Paul II.

A grandson very proud of his grandmother

Ian Lafrenière, very proud of his grandmother, mentions with admiration that up to a few years ago, she knitted hundreds of pairs of slippers every year to put into Christmas boxes. *Thinking of others has always been a natural reflex*, he says.

As far as he knows, she is the only person who survived both the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic and COVID-19 in 2020. He also adds that *his grandmother is an outspoken critic of politics. She hates chicanery at the Parliament and she never misses a chance to let me know*. The deputy minister is also the first caregiver for his grandmother, who still lives alone in her Longueuil apartment, but she can always count on Sister Thérèse, her generous neighbour.

¹ Gabrielle expressed her appreciation for our Association in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, Issue 97, Fall 2009, p. 27.



Wedding photo of Paul Lafrenière (1916-1977) and Gabrielle Hurtubise (1918-2024) 26 December 1946.

(Photo: Lafrenière family collection)

Octobre 1970

Minister Lafrenière underlined the fact that his grandfather, Paul Lafrenière, was the driver of Liberal minister Pierre Laporte until a few months before he was kidnapped during the October 1970 crisis. *It was very hard on my grandfather; it brought on his first heart attack.*

Over time, Ian Lafrenière appreciated that he and his grandfather shared many experiences as both were in the military police.

Flashback: On Saturday, 10 October 1970, Minister Paul Laporte, while playing ball with a nephew in front of his home in Saint-Lambert, was kidnapped by members of the Quebec Liberation Front. He was detained in a house on Armstrong Street (now Bachand Street) in Saint-Hubert. On 17 October, his body was found in a car trunk abandoned on the Wondel Aviation land, not far from the Canadian Military Base. *Strange coincidence, adds Mr. Lafrenière, this airport is in my electoral district.*

As for Mrs. Hurtubise-Lafrenière, this episode was one of the worst in her life. *One cannot forget something like that.*

The journalist concludes his article quoting Gaby and Gaby's grandson, Ian: *Anyway, Grandma Hurtubise is a philosopher so the last word is hers:*

"If you're happy with your lot, life is great."



The two brothers, Cédric and Ian Lafrenière, with their grandmother Gabrielle, a few years ago.

(Photo: Lafrenière family collection)



Gabrielle, Honorary President of the annual meeting of the Kirouac Family Association, held at the Montreal Botanical Garden on September 9, 2017, surrounded by her children, Pauline and Germain. (photo: Pierre Kirouac)

GABRIELLE (1918-2024)

MEMORIES BY HER COUSIN, PIERRE KIROUAC

Gaby

Gabrielle Hurtubise, Lafrenière, Kirouac. That says it all. This was the family she belonged to. Her father, Hurtubise; her husband, Lafrenière; her mother, Kirouac.

Gaby, the wife and the mother, was a woman fully involved in life, a builder, an organizer, a skilful politician and a woman of faith. This is how I see her.

Rosa Kirouac and Marie-Germaine Kirouac, Gaby's mother, were the two sisters of Agésilas Kirouac, my father. As I was born from his second marriage, there is a twenty-year gap between my Hurtubise cousins and I.

On 6 January, Gaby asked my wife and I to visit her. We were engulfed in a wave of memories. I particularly remember how proud she felt when telling the nuns, her teachers, that on her mother's side she was related to Brother Marie-Victorin (Conrad Kirouac). That pride lasted through her lifetime.

My first important memory of Gaby

My brother, Jean, and I were visiting Montreal and "cousin Gaby", as she wanted to be called, was looking after us for a few hours. She offered us some ice cream served in a "magic" cone. There was no such thing as "magic cone" in Warwick then.

That was the very best ice cream I ever had in my childhood.

Gaby's large family

Alfred Hurtubise and his wife, Marie-Germaine Kirouac, had fourteen children. On New Year's Day, brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law and grandchildren gathered at Claire's at the Legault family home on Sagard Street (Montreal). Claire was one of Gaby's sisters. Year in and year out, we were over a hundred for the family get-together. There was a gift for each person present. There was also a singing contest for the new talents among the Hurtubises, and talents were rewarded in cash given by Uncle Gilles. This was followed by the "caravan". Aunt Claire led all the children walking from the basement to the first floor, then onto the second floor singing "*À la queue leu leu*" (the wolf's tail song) that stopped at Fernande and Lucille's apartment before ending in front of the impressive large size creche, the Nativity scene.

There was also a distinctive sound, hubbub, no one could miss, it indicated the beginning of an epic card game involving: François, Gilles, Paul, Yvon, and Hubert. I can hear some of you adding more names to those mentioned. Next, Gaby's son, Germain, arrived disguised as Santa Claus, to the delight of all the children, they were ecstatic.

Back at home in Victoriaville, my sisters, Hélène and Marie, my brother, Jean, and I when talking about our New Year in Montreal, we could always tell our friends that it was the most extraordinary day of the year.

In 1978, the Kirouac Family Association was created and from then on, Gaby made sure to attend every annual gathering. In 2000, after 22 years of search and research, the identity of our ancestor was finally discovered. Gaby was among the 32 Kirouacs who visited the land of our Breton ancestor, Urbain-François Le Bihan, sieur de Kervoach in July 2002.

Our journey started at Saint-Malo (seaport). So why not pay a visit to Jacques-Cartier. For years, our Kirouac gatherings included a religious ceremony ending with singing "Notre-Dame du Canada".

So at Jacques Cartier's tomb in Saint-Malo, spontaneously, we sang that song / hymn: "Regarde avec ardeur" (Look down on us with heart.) "Then, my emotions got the better of me."

I must admit that Gaby and I had differing federal political opinions. A few years after our *Return to the Sources* trip in Brittany, during a friendly discussion, our differences came up in the conversation and, at that moment she said to me: "Pierre, I remember seeing your tears on Jacques Cartier's tomb."

The clever politician just dropped her master card on the table, a card she had secretly saved for years but that she took out at the right moment. I thought I had been keeping this discreetly hidden under the bush. Checkmated, I was.

Dear Gaby, in closing, I want you to be the first to know that your exceptional path will be featured in the upcoming edition of our family bulletin, *Le Trésor des Kirouac*.

This is an extremely brief portrait of my cousin, the unforgettable Gaby Hurtubise Lafrenière Kirouac.

Longueuil, 2 March 2024

¹ See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 119, Winter 2014-2015, pp 7-10.

GABRIELLE HURTUBISE-LAFRENIÈRE



2 August 1992, with Father Frederick Kirouac, at Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Church in Old Montreal. (Photo: KFA collection)



14 July 1995, unveiling of a commemorative plaque to Brother Marie-Victorin at the Montreal Botanical Garden. From left to right: Gabrielle Hurtubise Lafrenière, Jean Kirouac, Monique Hurtubise Brouillet, Claire Hurtubise Legault and Pierre Kirouac. (Photo: KFA collection)



1 July 2000, Saint-Malo, Brittany, during the *Return to the Sources* journey: left to right: behind, Ivan Kirouac, Nancy-Beckman-Kyrouac and Greg Kyrouac; front, Gabrielle Hurtubise Lafrenière, Georges Kirouac and his mother, Jeannine Laurencelle-Kirouac. (Photo: KFA collection)



15 July 2001, Nashua, N. H., Annual Kirouac Family Gathering, Gabrielle Hurtubise Lafrenière with Ivan Kirouac and Rollande Côté-Kirouac, wife of André Kirouac, former KFA president. (Photo: KFA collection)

WOULD NEVER MISS A KIROUAC FAMILY GATHERING



24 November 2001, Saint-Charles-Garnier College: launching of **BRETAGNE 2000**, souvenir book of the July 2000 trip to Brittany. From left to right: Gérard Kirouac, Gabrielle Hurtubise Lafrenière, Ivan Kirouac and his wife, Liliane Berthelet-Kirouac.

(Photo: KFA collection)

Longueuil, 5 July 2003, members of the organizing committee of the KFA 25th anniversary. From left to right: René Kirouac, Michel Bornais, Gabrielle Hurtubise Lafrenière, Ivan Kirouac, Jean-Yves Kirouac, Louis Kirouac, Pierre Kirouac from Trois-Rivières, and Pierre Kirouac from Boucherville. (Photo: Hélène Kirouac)



8 August 2004, in Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud church, Gabrielle Hurtubise Lafrenière and her first cousin, Pierre Kirouac. (Photo: Hélène Kirouac)

GABRIELLE HURTUBISE-LAFRENIÈRE

5 August 2006, at Berceau de Kamouraska (cradle), Quebec, unveiling of a commemorative monument to the ancestor of the North American Kirouacs. From left to right: Jacques Kirouac, KFA founding president, Denise Gaudreault, Gabrielle Hurtubise Lafrenière, Ivan Kirouac and Céline Kirouac. (Photo : Pierre Kirouac)



4 August 2007, La Ferme, Amos, Abitibi, Quebec, Gabrielle Hurtubise Lafrenière with Bruno Kirouac and his wife, Gisèle Bergeron-Kirouac.

(Photo: Hélène Kirouac)

Sherbrooke (Québec), 13 August 2010. Gabrielle Hurtubise Lafrenière with François Kirouac, KFA president. (Photo: Hélène Kirouac)



WOULD NEVER MISS A KIROUAC FAMILY GATHERING



9 July 2011, Canadian Railway Museum at Saint-Constant, Quebec, KFA annual general meeting. Gabrielle Hurtubise Lafrenière standing by one of the former Montreal observatory tramways.

(Photo: Francine Kirouac)

Warwick, 30 June 2012, Gabrielle Hurtubise Lafrenière and her sister, Claire Hurtubise Legault.

(Photo: Marie Kirouac)



Québec, 8 September 2018, Quebec City, three months before her 100th birthday, Gabrielle with her son, Germain, at the last KFA annual gathering she attended. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

Jules-Adrien, Conrad and I in Rome

On 11 October 1892, Chevalier François Kirouac and his son, Jules-Adrien, are received in an audience with Pope Leo XIII¹:

*It was the crowning moment of our journey, in spite of his 83 years, his slightly bent back and his very white forehead, His Holiness still has a strong voice. The audience was rather short, but I am told by Mr. Leclerc, that it is papa's fault. In Rome, to get anything or anywhere, one needs to use all possible means. Papa, being far too humble, would not list his various titles like that of president of the Saint-Vincent-de-Paul Society. Thus, he was treated like any ordinary person.*²

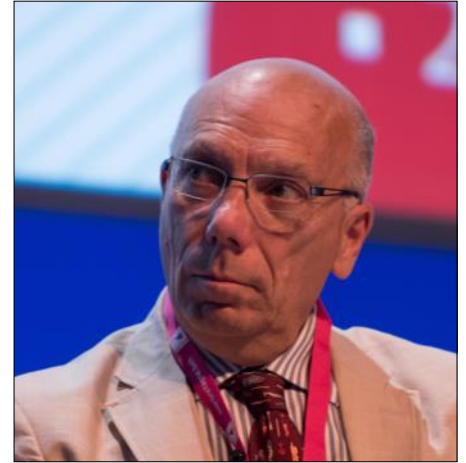
Fifty-eight years later, on 20 April 1950, while on a pilgrimage during the Holy Year, my father, Conrad Kirouac, and his two sisters, Yvonne and Lauretta, were in the crowd at the audience given by Pope Pius XII. Then, in 2017, on 18 January, I listened to Pope Francis speaking in the large Paul VI Auditorium in Rome.³

Three pilgrims. Should I be called a pilgrim? We each had different motivations and reasons to walk the pavement of the Eternal City? As for François and Jules-Adrien, we know from the father's comments that for him and his son, religion, the (catholic) church and the saints held an important place in their life and in their mind.

As for my papa, Conrad, it is hard to say. Was he a religious man? About his two sisters, whom I knew very well, that is certain. This 1950-Holy Year pilgrimage was the crowning experience of their lives. As for their brother, can I doubt that and risk clouding his memory? We each have impressions and intuition and, as far as I am concerned, I think he was a happy traveller because his dream was coming true: discovering Europe.



Saint Peter's Square, Rome
(Conrad Kirouac, slide, 1950)



André Kirouac
(Photo credit: Région Bretagne 2017)

As for myself in 2017, was my trip to Rome a crowning experience? Was it a new journey in the footsteps of my father? Conrad, homonym of the religious brother, the famous botanist?

A pilgrimage, possibly, but not for religious purposes. My interest in visiting Rome was very different from that of my spouse and her son. I only intended to accompany them and enjoy the Roman must-see sites. The Pope was not yet on my list.

That was so until I started to think about my father's 1950 journey. Then I found my motivation. Why not take my pilgrim's baton and visit the same places he did, but as a photographer?

¹ On 7 October 1892, François still in Rome wrote to his daughter, Malvina, sister Sainte-Marie-Bernard. François mentioned that they were received by Pope Leo XIII on 11 October; however, according to his son, Jules, the audience was on 12 October. Source: Jules Adrien's description of the audience in *Le Trésor des Kirouac, Special Edition no. 6*, Spring 2018, p. 60, entitled: **Chevalier François Kirouac**.

² General Audience of 18 January 2017 - KTOTV.



(Photos: André Kirouac, 2017)

So, photos of 1950 juxtaposed to mine taken in 2017. At the time, I knew nothing about Jules-Adrien and that he would join me in 2023, in a completely virtual manner of course.

So, I rummaged through my father's boxes of souvenirs, I can thank my mother for that, I discovered that he was an avid collector-keeper even worse than me, if that is possible. In 1950, Rome was only one of the stops on a European tour. Papa kept all the postcards, folders and even restaurant menus while in France and Italy. Including the good pilgrim's guide. It is all there. I could even compare his European travel with the 1892 journey and mine. But let's start with visits to Rome by Jules-Adrien and later I, different times, different popes.

Oh, yes, finally, I added Pope Francis to my list of must-sees in Rome. Why? Well, my father's tour included a papal audience of 15,000 people in St. Peter's Square. It was no surprise to read that Jules-Adrien and his father did the same but at the time of Pope Leo XIII. And I? What about me?

I discovered that I had a certain talent for audacity and could even push my luck! Jules-Adrien talks about his father's humility. Not me, not then. Don't laugh, I wrote a letter to the Holy Father asking to attend an audience on Wednesday, 18 January 2017. From what I read on the Vatican website then, I had to give a plausible reason for asking for such a privilege. Fine, I carefully underlined that I was going on a pilgrimage in my father's footsteps. A father I never knew but who had made a pilgrimage to Rome in 1950. I also had to fax (yes, fax) my request and hope. My request was a success?

On the day, in Rome, in front of the basilica, St. Peter's Square was crowded. Everyone hoping to have a seat inside the auditorium for winter audiences. Although, we, Quebecers are used to winter, I must admit that we were all shivering. It was the worst Italian winter in 45 years, we were told.

I approach a Swiss guard and show him a fax copy of the answer I had received a few weeks earlier. Hurrah! He checks the names and tells me to follow him and again as a good Quebecer, I bypass the line but trigger the metal detector alarm. *Damn keys!*

Invective in all the Bible's languages sound around, perfect place for that, as I enter an alcove where another Swiss guard, a very Italian one, is ensconced behind a desk. Within seconds, I walk out with three authorizations.

Well, this seems wonderful, but the vouchers only gave us seats in the twelfth row. Not bad at all as 3000 people were expected in the auditorium. To be nearer to the front, we would have had to say that we wished a nuptial blessing! I did not dare go that far!

And what about the Pope? He walked very close to us, super nice and attentive to the army of fans ecstatic. (Not me, don't worry!). He goes by, walks forward, gets ready and launches into a really interesting discourse that translators poorly summarize. Fortunately, I understand enough Italian to laugh at his jokes at the right moment. Because he makes jokes about this and knows how to stretch his subject, for example in relating how he met a woman of rather loose morals on a park bench in Argentina. As I said, super nice Pope Francis.

If I understand well what Jules-Adrien remembered of his visit, quite the opposite to me, it was the very short time their meeting Pope Leo XIII lasted. Which is not too bad, if they met him alas without being able to kiss his ring. As for my father, nothing special concerning the Pope as it seems to have been only one stage among others during his tour. Various steps, various milestones, Rome is full of them!

According to the diary that Chevalier François Kirouac wrote during his time in Rome, his itinerary took him from one church after another; that is fifty-two visits in two weeks: between 28 September and 13 October 1892. Let's not go into details between that and what my father Conrad visited in 1950.

Saint Peter's Basilica is inescapable of course. However, there is only one souvenir-photo of François and Jules-Adrien's visit; papa Conrad, on the other hand, took many photos besides buying many sets of souvenir-postcards.

I also remember another church for a special reason, the archbasilica of Saint John-Lateran. In 1892, François wrote:

The Archbasilica of Saint John Lateran: known as the mother church of all the churches of the world. This church has three large naves. The floors are all marble inlaid with mosaics in porphyry and other kinds of marble. [...] At the foot of the papal altar, Jules received the four minor orders on 12 April and on 15 June from His Eminence Cardinal Parocchi, Vicar General of his holiness Pope Leo XIII. It is also at the foot of this altar that the same cardinal made Jules-Adrien a sub-deacon on 17 December 1893.⁴

And why not look at a third church visited by François and Jules-Adrien on 28 September 1892, and later by papa Conrad in 1950 and, finally, by yours truly in 2017.



Chevalier François Kirouac and his son, Jules-Adrien, in Rome in 1892. (Photo: Kirouac Family Association collection)

I am referring to the Trinitarian Church. By the side of the main altar, there is a small alcove where people venerate Christ and a statue of the Holy Virgin that pious Italians have decorated with numerous ex-votos. (Journal of François Kirouac 1892)

Visiting Rome also means seeing some catacombs! Including the catacombs of Saint-Calixte, another *must-see* in Rome. François, Jules, Conrad, André and others visited them. Is this story becoming a suspense film? Let's see what François wrote in 1892:

³ Did François add this note later as he dated it 1893 having visited Rome in 1892?



Archbasilica of St. John Lateran, souvenir booklet, Conrad Kirouac collection.



Trinità dei Monti Church, souvenir booklet, Conrad Kirouac collection



The Church of Santissima Trinità dei Monti (André Kirouac, 2017)

*Saint Cecilia's body was found in these catacombs with an inscription revealing her name. Her body spent twelve centuries there. It is only during the XVIIth century that her body was transported to the place where she was put to death. A church was built in her honour, Santa Cecilia in Trastevere, where her ashes are kept to this day. A martyr, she was struck with a sword three times but survived and died only three days later.*⁴

*Nearby there is another catacomb, Rome's largest: the catacombs of Saint-Calixte where the popes who followed the apostles were interred. There are also a number of chapels in it where Holy Mass was said. These underground catacombs are damp and cold. You cannot stay there for long without risking catching a cold.*⁵

To conclude, here is what François wrote about the catacombs, and I entirely agree with him: *the perfect place to catch a cold*. As I cannot find the photo of Saint Cecilia's last resting place, I take the liberty of sharing one of my photos, but it might leave you on your appetite.

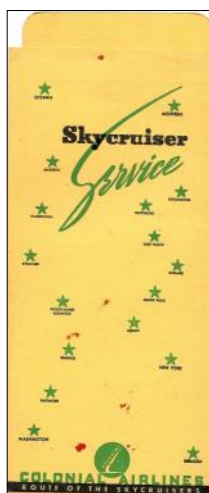
Now let's leave François and his son, Jules, somewhere in a church; then let's jump over two world wars and meet at the foot of an aircraft gateway in the year 1950.

The "Anno Santo" decreed by Pius XII only five years after two atomic bombs had hit Japan. Were we slowly forgetting the war? Is it possible that people sitting in cafés in the Eternal City had already forgotten Mussolini? Who are these millions of visitors? Possibly religious people, and what are they thinking about when converging on Rome?

⁴ Saint Cecile was condemned to be decapitated in public. She was struck three times and left to die three days later. Her mortal remains were discovered in 821 in Saint-Calixte catacombs, and transferred to the Trastevere district where a basilica was built to house her remains.



On the way to St. Calixte's Catacombs
(Photo: André Kirouac, 2017)



Boarding Colonial Airlines, 15 April 1950. Everything is ready: airplane, boarding pass, even the permission to smoke in the aircraft except during takeoff and landing. At least!
(Photo: Conrad Kirouac collection)

At the time, it must have been quite an adventure to fly over the Atlantic in a four-engine aircraft. Nothing compared with today's Airbus. And at the time going to the old countries usually meant confronting a dictator. For most of these pilgrims then, it must have been the trip of a lifetime quite the opposite for me and those of my generation. I have already crossed the pond twenty-two times, including one crossing by boat. Although it says frequent flyer on my boarding passes, I am certainly not one of the most frequent travellers.

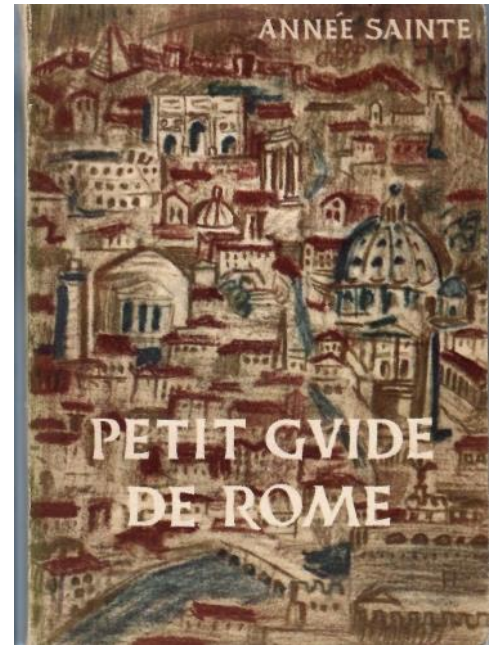
Am I surprised to discover all these postcards, all these simple mementos and city plans in Conrad's files? I can see myself there! I think that, in a way, he is inviting me to follow him, passport included. Indeed, this is what guided me in January 2017. Before leaving, I looked at most of the colour slides that had been stored in a metal box for decades.



Sample of *Settimana incom illustrata* of 15 April 1950. (Conrad Kirouac collection)



An Anno Santo tourist route. (Conrad Kirouac collection)



French Essential Rome Travel Guide (Conrad Kirouac collection)



Ginevra Hotel business card where the pilgrims stayed. (Conrad Kirouac collection)



Conrad Kirouac Pilgrim Passport. (Conrad Kirouac collection)

In many places, it was fun to try standing within a few feet of where my father stood himself in order to capture the same angles. It is not perfect, but I admit that I enjoyed doing that, watched by my spouse who, not surprised by what I was doing, found it pleasant although a bit fussy. I left Rome after having visited all I wanted to see following some search on the web. I like to think that Conrad would have appreciated; as well as Jules-Adrien and François.

It is easy to imagine how much has been discovered in Rome's undergrounds through archeological excavation over the years: statues, mosaics and countless other objects one thousand years old and more, and all under the streets and buildings.

But then what do you do with it all? At first the thought was to create a temporary exhibition. But why not use an abandoned power plant to exhibit the largest number of objects for the public to see?

1950



Piazza del Popolo

2017



Saint Peter's Basilica



Cestius Pyramid

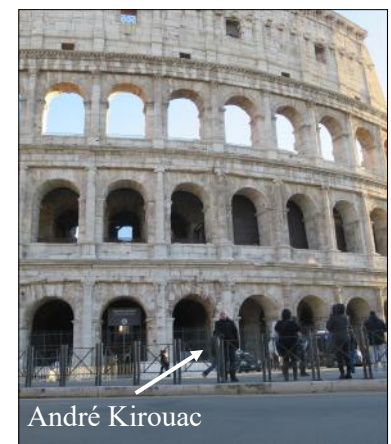


Castel Sant'Angelo



Roman Coliseum

Yvonne Kirouac



André Kirouac

From an idea seeming rather crazy at first was born one of the most beautiful and audacious museums in the world. Thus, the Centrale Montemartini Power Plant was renovated and became a permanent museum. If you have never visited it while in Rome, it is almost a sin not to do so, especially in a Holy City. Take a look.

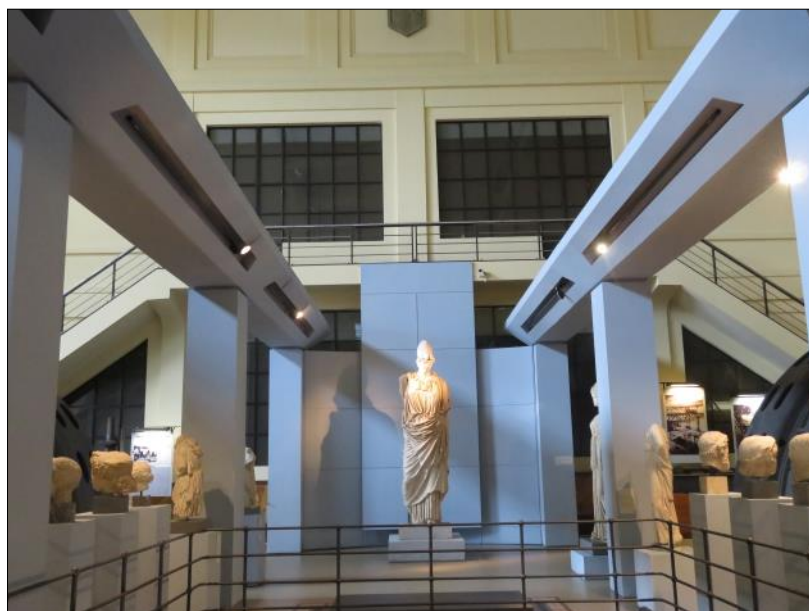
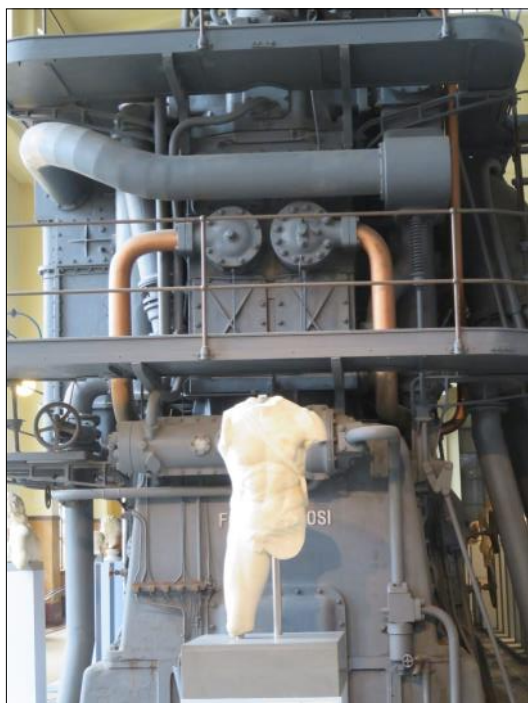
As I mentioned, I left Rome in order to go to Naples and Pompeii, a detour that my father, his sisters and their group did not do. What they did instead was a sort of relay race that took them to seven other towns in Italy and France.

Let's not forget that they were pilgrims therefore on a pilgrimage! So, take a deep breath, and we will try to follow them.

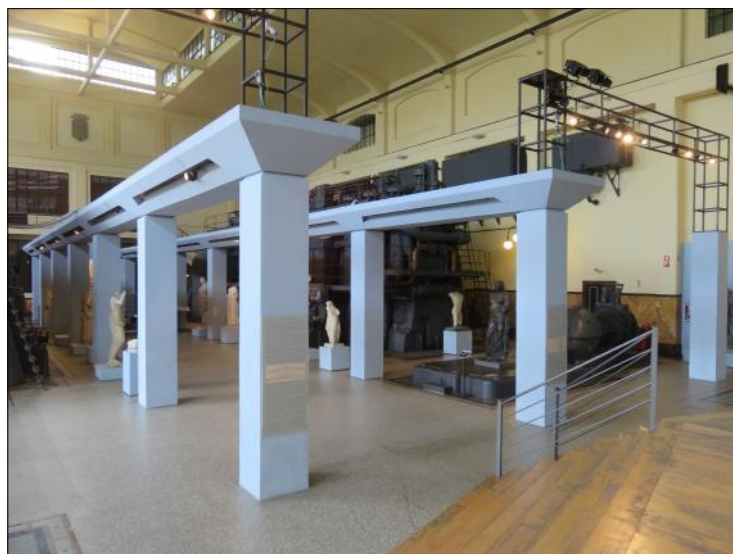
Upon leaving Rome, after a visit to Pope Pius XII, they went to Florence for a few hours only because the following day they were in St. Mark's Square

in Venice where the pigeons attacked my aunt Yvonne. In the seventies, twenty years after the fact, she was still trembling when talking about it! After that they went to Milan and saw the Duomo of course; then Genoa and its cemetery. I preferred to see the Museo del Mare that opened only in 2004, created by my friend Pierangelo Campadnico.

Nice bus tour along the French Riviera; (the rest was by plane); Lourdes (a stopover of only a few hours, unfortunately for them) and finally Paris, reached by train, (a



Centrale Montemartini Museum
(Photos: André Kirouac, 2017)



change from the tour bus). We are talking about a complete tour completed in seven days! Is it surprising if the travellers were free to choose what to do and see during their last two days spent in Paris, 29 and 30 April, except for a visit to Versailles! A few hours to walk around before the long flight back to Montreal and Quebec City. I will not bore you with the many photos my father took, save for one.

It took me over ten years to visit these various towns and cities and I have yet to see Florence and Venice, even Nice. However, let me mention Toulon, which I visited with Quebec City Mayor Régis Labeaume in November 2011 and where I attended a concert in the Duomo, the Milan cathedral in 2016. Sublime!

François and Jules-Adrien, Conrad and his sisters, Yvonne and Lauretta, and I, what are we looking for in these adventures?

The Larousse dictionary's definition of pilgrimage is a journey, often a spiritual journey, by one or more faithful to a sacred place or, a place where

one goes out of piety or, finally, a journey with the intention of praying where a famous person lived or in a place where one has lived in the past.

Fine for Jules-Adrien, François and Conrad, their travels correspond to that definition. As for myself, it looks like I need to revise my understanding of the word or adapt it to the aim as when visiting a place where a celebrity lived! But which one? Rome is paved with celebrities.

So, why take off like that, by plane or boat, if not to discover a New World? To see what others have seen before us that makes us dream? Dream of seeing a pope, dream of going down into the catacombs or dream to see what one's father has seen, walking where he walked, and taking photos to remember both journeys.

André Kirouac
Québec and Lisboa
Autumn 2023

⁶ Régis Labeaume, mayor of Quebec City from 2007 to 2021.



Pilgrims at Versailles. Extreme right, Conrad Kirouac, with his camera slung over his shoulder. (Photo: Conrad Kirouac collection)



Milan's Cathedral is located on the Piazza del Duomo. (Photo: André Kirouac, 2016)

Business Acumen of Generations of Kirouacs in Warwick

by François Kirouac

In order to present the history of one of the many Kirouac families of businessmen from Warwick, first I must thank Luc Boulanger, son of Léo and Thérèse (née Rondeau) Boulanger for the research he has been doing for a few years regarding many families who played an important role in the life of Warwick, a town in the Bois-Francs Region of Quebec. (Bois-Francs means hardwood).

Thanks to his fruitful research on the local industries in Warwick where we both grew up; he enriched my own genealogical research with numerous dates and loads of fascinating details about the history of enterprises owned by Kirouac businessmen. His research now enables me to offer to the readers of *Le Trésor des Kirouac* a number of biographies enriched by numerous photos of personalities and their families from this branch of our genealogical family tree.

I also thank Guy Raiche from the Warwick Historical Society who provided us with more photos he found to better illustrate my text. Guy is also a descendant of our common ancestor, Alexandre de Kervoach, through his grandmother, Bernadette Kirouac (GFK 00729), daughter of Joseph and Henriette (née Leclerc) Kirouac, who are also my great-grandparents; so Guy and I are third-cousins.

PRESENTATION

To earn a living, many descendants of our Breton ancestor were very active in business, in commercial adventures. The Kirouacs from Quebec City are very well known in the old capital for their involvement in toy stores since 1888. We are talking about the Kirouac line descended from Francois Kirouac, the first one to start a commercial venture in Quebec City in 1848. Their story was published in the

spring 2018¹ in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, our KFA news bulletin since 1983, that we consider our family encyclopedia. One Francois Kirouac known as the Chevalier was the father of Joseph-Arthur, who created the Kirouac toy shops. But did you know that one of his first cousins was Onésime, the man who created one of the most important industries in Warwick, a town situated in the Bois-Francs region?

Like his cousin François, Onésime is the head of a long branch of Kirouacs entrepreneurs who were involved in business for a number of generations.

¹ See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 126, Spring 2018, 5-15; see also: [https://irp.cdn-website.com/7bb0d2a7/files/uploaded/Kirouac the toys.pdf](https://irp.cdn-website.com/7bb0d2a7/files/uploaded/Kirouac%20the%20toys.pdf)



Left to right, front row: Samuel, Onésime, Joseph, Philippe, Alphonse; centre row: Arthur, Didace, François-Xavier, Évariste, Napoléon; back row: Calixte junior, Sister Clarisse (Aurélie), Calixte senior, (insert) the late Clarisse Desharnais. (KFA collection)



Calixte Kirouac (1841-1923)
(Photo: KFA collection)

FAMILY ORIGIN AND SIBLINGS

Calixte Kirouac (1841-1923), a brother of Chevalier François Kirouac (1826-1896), was part of the fifth generation of Alexandre de Kervoach's descendants. He was married four times; however, all his children were born to his first wife, Clarisse Desharnais (1838-1895). They had fourteen children between 1863 and 1883. Among them, many were in business, some for a short time only.

From the older to the younger sons, they are François-Xavier, Didace, Onésime, Philippe and Alphonse. Then, Onésime's son, Lionel, took over from his father as the head of the Warwick Woolen Mills Limited when his father died. And when Lionel died, his son, Guy, carried on as head of the business. Another of Lionel's sons was Rolland, who headed the Laiterie Rolland (dairy) and the Verger des Horizons (apple orchard), where Rolland planted 5,000 apple trees. Another of

Lionel's sons, Roger, was head of Presto Oil a regional oil distributor. At the same time, Rolland and Roger were also shareholders and administrators of the Warwick Woollen Mills.

Following the order of birth, let's look at each sibling's biography.

FRANÇOIS-XAVIER KIROUAC (1868-1917)

François-Xavier Kirouac born at Warwick (Quebec) on June first 1868, started working at the factory at twenty, in 1888. He started off at an agricultural implements factory and fabric company belonging to Étienne Cantin who had been in business at Warwick since 1873². François-Xavier married his boss's daughter, Attala Cantin, on 2 October 1888 at Warwick. They had eight children, three daughters and five sons. Only two are known to have survived into adulthood. The others all died before reaching their second birthday. His son, Hormidas, survived but died aged 25 and his daughter, Irene, became a nun, entered the Sisters of Charity congregation, known as the Grey Nuns, and died at the age of thirty. A first girl was born in December 1888, but we have yet to learn if she survived.



In the 1891 Canadian Census, we read that François-Xavier lives at Warwick and is a merchant. In 1898, he was a travelling salesman for The Sherbrooke Cigar Company³. In the 1901 Canadian Census, he is still listed as a salesman. In 1906, François-Xavier was a salesman for the company founded in 1898, by his father-in-law, Étienne Cantin with a few other shareholders. *La Manufacture de hardes de Warwick*⁴. It is worth looking at the size of his sales territory that includes the Beauce Region and all the villages and towns located along the Intercolonial railroad⁵.

On 6 July 1907, *Le Soleil*, a Quebec City daily, wrote that François-Xavier Kirouac was the head of *La Manufacture de hardes de Warwick*. Three years later, in 1910, in an advertisement he was referred to as the company's manager. So, starting as a salesman in November 1906 he became manager in July 1907, all within nine months.

That same publicity⁶ also gives us an idea of the enterprise's importance at the time: the business is now known from the Atlantic to the Pacific, under

² Originally, this company was a carding mill belonging to Félix Baril. Étienne Cantin bought it on 13 December 1886. (*Histoire du Vieux-Warwick et son patrimoine*, Société d'histoire de Warwick, André Moreau, 2021, p.70) (book written by André Moreau, published in 2021, entitled *History and Heritage of Old Warwick*, Warwick Historical Society).

³ Source: *La Gazette officielle du Québec* (*Quebec official Gazette*) 19 March 1898.

⁴ Source: *Le Prix courant*, Friday, 9 November 1906, p. 27. According to the author, André Moreau, in his 2021 book, *Histoire du Vieux-Warwick et son patrimoine*, in 1906, the company employed 100 workers, men and women.

⁵ The Intercolonial railway was Canada's first infrastructure project operating from 1872 to 1918, linking Nova-Scotia, New-Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario. In 1919, it was incorporated into the Canadian National Railways Company. Source: <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/intercolonial-railway>

⁶ *Victoriaville, Arthabaska, Warwick... et les alentours, 1910 published in Gazette d'Arthabaska.*

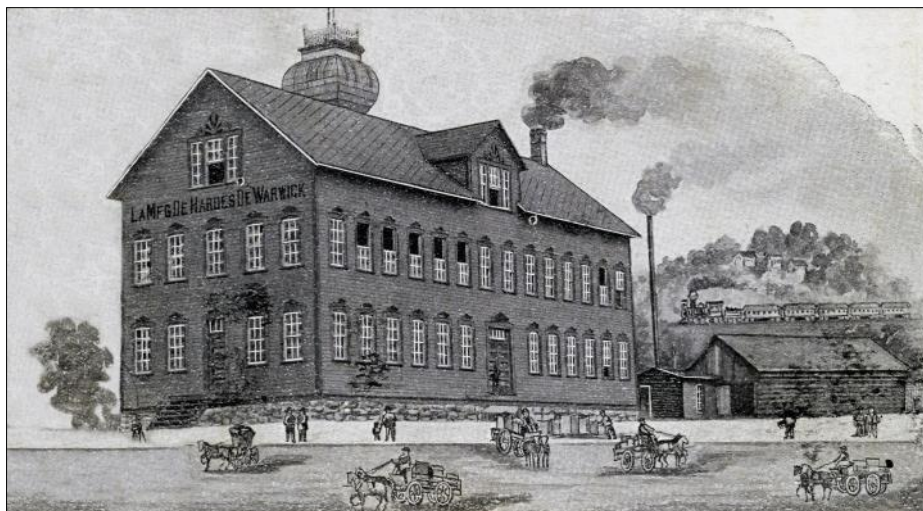
the trademark *Leader Brand*, that refers to most of its production. It is also the line that grew most rapidly and, actually, the line they concentrate most of their efforts in order to remain at the top of and maintain the rightful prominence this merchandise has acquired, known for its perfectly elegant cut, its exquisite finish and quality while still being offered within the range of popular prices. One can also read that Étienne Cantin is still the company president and that Onésime Kirouac, Francois-Xavier's younger brother is one of the directors.



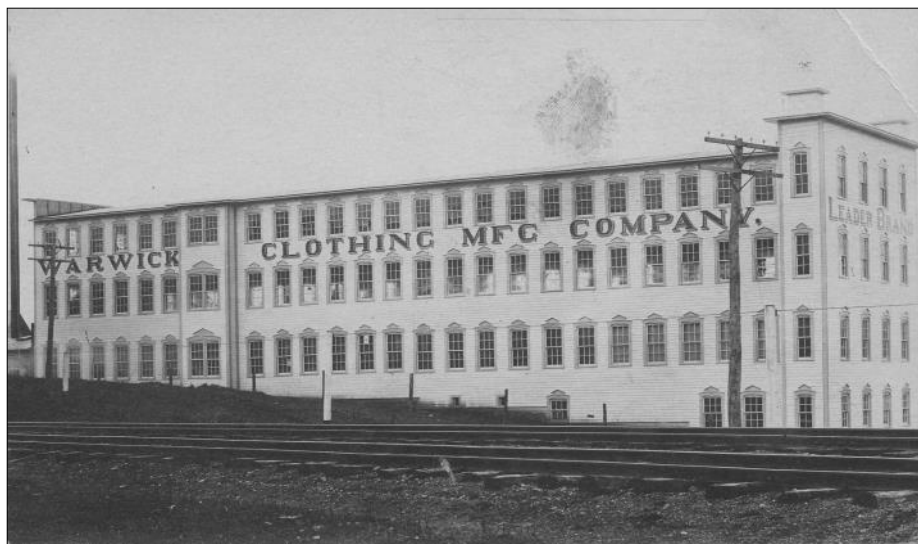
Warwick's first clothing mill in 1898. (Photo: BAnQ [06M,P833,S3,D1079])

L'Union des Cantons de l'Est (Eastern Township local paper), on 19 April 1912, wrote that a new company called *The Warwick Clothing MFG Company* recently bought all assets of the *Manufacture de Hardes de Warwick*. The main shareholder of this new venture is Francois-Xavier Kirouac⁷. The other shareholders were Wilfrid Fournier, farmer, Étienne Cantin, company president, Francois-Xavier's brother, Onésime Kirouac, industrialist and Louis Alphonse Charron, salesman.

On 15 June 1912, *La Gazette officielle du Québec* (Quebec government official publisher) mentions that a notice of closure for this industry was given by Francois-Xavier Kirouac, industrialist and company liquidator. It seems that he faced a number of financial difficulties after the bankruptcy of a company that looked prosperous only a few months earlier. It looks as though things went from bad to worse afterwards because when he died, five years later, in 1917, all his assets and property were seized. The Arthabaska Sheriff awarded the house he still owned in Warwick to Mrs Georgiana Boivin from Quebec



Publicity for Warwick's first clothing mill published in *La Patrie*, Montreal daily, Saturday, 6 October 1900, page 1. (Photo: Warwick Historical Society)



Second Warwick clothing mill around 1907. (In *L'Union des Cantons de l'Est*, vol. 41, no. 24 (31 May 1907). (Photo: Warwick Historical Society)

⁷ *Gazette officielle du Québec*, Saturday, 17 February 1912 (no. 7) p. 14, #401-403.



Napoléon-Georges Kirouac (1864-1938)
son of François Kirouac and Julie Hamel

City, third wife of his first cousin, Napoléon-G. Kirouac, broker⁸.

François-Xavier was also one of the directors of Compagnie Francaise de Tabletterie de Warwick, that, in 1911, became the *Dominion Combs & Novelty Company*, and later on became *Plastique DCN*⁹, the name by which the company is still known today. He was also one of the founding members of another corporation created on 17 February 1911, named *The Crescent Copper Ore Company Limited*, with head office located at Victoriaville (Quebec)¹⁰.

After his first wife, Attala Cantin died on 13 November 1904, François-Xavier remarried on 30 July 1906 at Notre-Dame-du-Lac (Quebec); his second wife was Maria Beaulieu. She gave him seven children, three boys and four girls. One son, called François-Xavier, lived only three months. The others gave him thirty-eight descendants to this day, spread over four generations, including Kirouac, as well as Martel, Letendre, Lefebvre, Laplace, Melanson, Parisien and Parent.

After the 1912 bankruptcy of his company, François-Xavier and his family left Warwick and moved to Montreal the following year. On 22

January 1917, at the age of 48, he died in Montreal. Three days later, on 25 January 1917, an imposing funeral took place at Warwick and François-Xavier was interred the same day in the parish cemetery.

DIDACE KIROUAC (1872-1951)

Didace was born on 14 November 1872 at Warwick. Very little is known about him except that he was Neubois's postmaster for twelve years in Saint-Narcisse-de-Beaurivage also producing cheese and butter. In 1924, he immigrated to Bristol, Conn., with his family¹¹. Like so many then he was likely attracted to the huge work possibilities in the American factories at the time. In the 1940 American Census, he is listed as inspector in a Bristol spring shop. He became an American citizen on 27 December 1943.



On 18 February 1895 he married Hortense Rheault at Saint-Gregoire, Nicolet County. But their fifteen children were all born at Saint-Narcisse-de-Beaurivage, County of Lotbiniere. One of their daughters entered the congregation of the Missionary Sisters of The Immaculate Conception¹². Their youngest child, Augustine, died on 13 June 2010 at Bristol, Conn.

Didace died at Bristol at the age of 78, on 10 June 1951, and his wife, one year later, on 2 July 1952. Both are interred in the Saint-Joseph Cemetery at Bristol, Conn. There are now sixty-two descendants spread over four generations, including Kirouac, Boudreault, Caron, Dubé, Dupont, Erdman and Duncan.

ONÉSIME F. KIROUAC (1876-1954)

Onésime François Kirouac was born on 12 February 1876 at Warwick (Quebec). At fourteen he

learned to make butter and cheese. Then he studied at the École laitiere de Saint-Hyacinthe (Dairy school). He worked in various cheese factories in the Bois-Francs Region of Quebec and in New-Brunswick¹³.

In 1896, at twenty, Onésime began his career working in industry for Étienne Cantin. In 1900, *L'Union des Cantons de l'Est* wrote that he was a salesman at first¹⁴. In 1898, The Cantin's factory burned down; was rebuilt in 1899 and enlarged a year later¹⁵. On 4 June 1898, Onésime married the owners' other daughter, Orise Cantin, Attala's sister.

On Friday, 24 June 1910, *L'Union des Cantons de l'Est*, the local paper wrote that Onésime had been the manager of the company for a few years. But once more, the factory burned to the ground and was rebuilt but this time under a

⁸ *Histoire du Vieux-Warwick et son patrimoine*, Op cit. 2021, p. 205.

⁹ Idem, source: *L'Union des Cantons de l'Est*, Friday, 21 January 1910, p. 2 & Saturday, 20 January 1911, p. 5.

¹⁰ Idem, source: *L'Union des Cantons de l'Est*, Friday, 3 March 1911, p. 3; and Saturday, 17 March 1911, p. 1.

¹¹ In 1924, when he filled a form to become an American citizen, he mentioned his cheese making training. There could be an error of date because, according to Library and Archives Canada's data base, he was a postmaster from 21 March 1912 until 22 July 1925.

¹² See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, December 2006, no. 86, pp. 7-11.

¹³ *L'Union*, 5 September 2001, Alain Bergeron; *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, December 2001, no. 66, pp. 32-33.

¹⁴ *Histoire du Vieux-Warwick et son patrimoine*, Op cit. Warwick Historical Society, André Moreau, 2021, p. 71.

¹⁵ Warwick Historical Society, November 2019 exhibition about the *Warwick Woollen Mills*.



Onésime Kirouac and Orise Cantin in 1900
 (Photo courtesy of H  l  ne and Paul Bloxham, children of B  rang  re Kirouac), Photo credit: Studio Richardson, Leominster, Massachusetts

new name, *La Compagnie des Industries Cantin*¹⁶. We must remember that On  sime's brother, Fran  ois-Xavier, is the manager of   tienne Cantin's other company, *La manufacture de hardes de Warwick*, and that the two Kirouac brothers are married to   tienne Cantin's two daughters, Orise and Attala, and are the managers of two factories belonging to their father-in-law, one of the important businessmen of Warwick.

In 1920, On  sime Kirouac buys the *Compagnie des Industries Cantin*¹⁷ and sells the installations to the new company called *Warwick Woollen Mills Limited* whose founding investors are, himself, Notary Edgar Lalibert  ,   tienne Cantin and his first cousin, Ag  silas Kirouac¹⁸. On  sime becomes the president of the new company¹⁹.

He immediately garnered the services of wool experts, of French chemists and of excellent workers. The great depression arrived but the enterprise doubled and tripled because being a clever industrialist he took advantage of lower prices in the USA to buy wool carders, weaving looms and other goods going cheap. He made sure all his sons got the best education possible, although admitting that his own schooling had ended at age nine. One son was sent to England to

study wool classification at the Bedford Mill in Leeds. He later studied at London University and closely followed the wool market prices on the London stock exchange. Another son, Lionel, went to work in a bank where he learned accounting, an experience that served him well when he was later in charge of the Warwick Woollen Mills's finance.

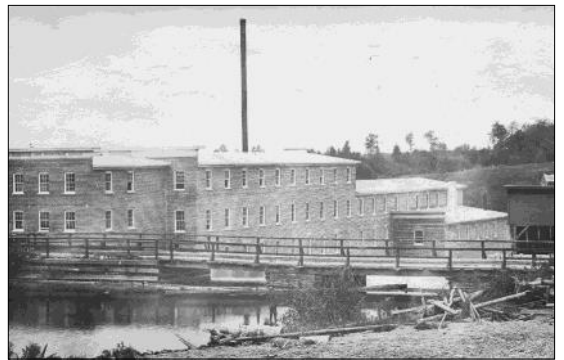
"Following the French family tradition, the entire management of the company passed down from the father to his sons. Thus, the industrialist, once retired, was able to devote his time entirely to his dream project: run a nice farm.

"The Warwick Woollen was on a successful path. Felts for paper mills, a company specialty, were sold everywhere in Quebec and Ontario. (Daily production then was sixty pieces



Cantin Mill at Warwick before the 1910 fire.

(Photo: Warwick Historical Society)



After the fire, the mill was rebuilt larger and more modern.

(Photo: Warwick Historical Society)

¹⁶ The company manufactures threshing mills, wood cutters and splitters, general foundries, gas engines, farm wagons, all kinds of scales, motor beaters, tweeds, flannels, horse blankets, automobile carpets, axe handles, shovel handles, and many other wooden articles. (Source: Warwick Historical Society, November 2019 exhibition about the *Warwick Woollen Mills*)

¹⁷ With a capital of \$1000. (source: *Le Bulletin des agriculteurs*, February 1945, p. 29)

¹⁸ About Ag  silas Kirouac, see *Le Tr  sor des Kirouac*, December 2002, number 70, pp. 39-40.

¹⁹ Warwick Historical Society, November 2019 exhibition about the *Warwick Woollen Mills*.



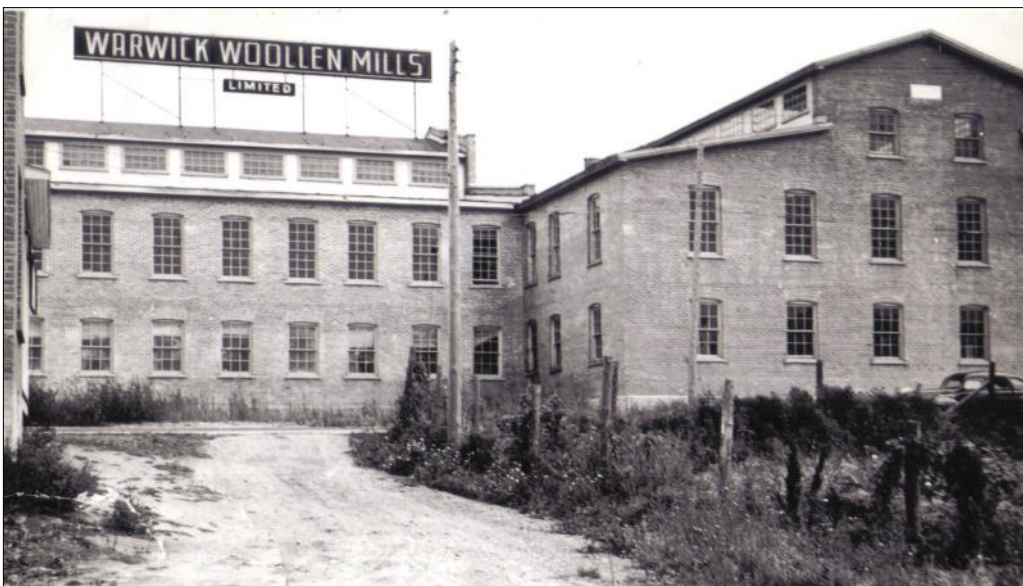
Mill number One, located at 274 Saint-Louis Street; in 1920, Cantin Industries became known as Warwick Woollen Mills Limited.

This is the new mill rebuilt in 1924, after the fire of June 1923.

(Photo: Warwick Historical Society)

Warwick Woollen Mills Limited, Number One.

(Photo: Warwick Historical Society)



In 1948, Warwick Woollen Mills Limited, Mill Number Two located on Rue Hôtel de ville (city hall street).

(Photo: Warwick Historical Society)

measuring seventy yards per day (sixty-four meters). With the Second World War, the government ordered large quantities of khaki material for uniforms, as well as grey woollen blankets from The Warwick Woollen Mills that also manufactured plain woollen material and ever more refined plaid fabric. Mr. Onésime Kirouac adding that, soon, they would be able to offer high quality tweeds as good as those made in England²⁰."

As can be seen in the previous paragraphs, Onésime Kirouac's enterprise had greatly expanded over time. From 50 employees in 1928, to 100 in 1931; then to 160 in 1937, and up to 190 in 1939. During WWII, the company benefited from very large contracts from the Canadian Federal Department of Munitions and Supplies. The number of employees increased to 225 in 1942 and to 240 in 1945²¹.

In February 1945, in *Le Bulletin des agriculteurs*²², Gabrielle Roy²³, wrote that a Warwick enterprise exceptionally managed to grow during the worst years of the economic depression was even doing admirably well. Onésime was interviewed by the journalist and told her about his humble beginnings: "He talked about how he started some fifty years before, knowing practically nothing about the wool industry. In a small horse-drawn cart, Mr. Kirouac drove through the country lanes buying wool locally produced. An ordinary man, without any pretension, he liked to talk about those years, adding colourful details, most likely making it sound far more pleasant than it really was. In all weather, driving his Rocinante²⁴ on country lanes pulling a cart loaded with bags of rough wool. Warwick's mill was small then and quite primitive, essentially functioning on the basis of exchange: the farmers' wives traded their raw wool for a few yards of durable fabrics. During the First World War, the Warwick Woollen Mills was already able to ship fabrics to Europe, particularly to Roumania."

On 2 September 1946, the employees of the Warwick Woolen Mills and the Warwick citizens celebrated the 50th anniversary of Onésime Kirouac working in the enterprise²⁵. *La Tribune de Sherbrooke*, regional daily paper, wrote that with only three days' notice, Onésime Kirouac was the hero of a celebration attended by over 1000 people. Chanoine Leblanc, then parish priest, in his speech underlined that "Mr. Kirouac and his sons, never made any difference between capital-manpower and capital products because both go hand in hand, they cannot be separated."

My mother, Gisele Bergeron-Kirouac, speaking on behalf of the employees, thanked the directors for always treating men and women the on an equal footing. Let's say that the *Warwick Woolen Mills* directors/administrators were then way ahead of their time."

In a document published by the company to mark its fiftieth anniversary, it says that the president, Onésime F. Kirouac, is a *self-made man*. Also that he is energetic and that his extraordinary vision equalled his persistent dedication to the task, his indomitable tenacity to achieve an ideal. He belongs to the long line of "builders" who are the pride of the French-Canadian. He ranks with the top and best-known industrialists in French-speaking Canada thanks to his strong will and energy admirably served by his practical intelligence."

In 2001, another journalist, Alain Bergeron, drew a portrait of Onésime Kirouac indicating that "he was one of the most popular men of his time



Onésime F. Kirouac, painting by his sister, Aurélie (Photo: Charles Kirouac)

in Warwick. He was involved in many charitable, social and sporting causes, this industrialist paid the studies of his employees' children enrolled in the

²⁰ *Le Bulletin des agriculteurs*, February 1945, p. 29.

²¹ *Histoire du Vieux-Warwick et son patrimoine*, Warwick Historical Society, André Moreau, 2021, pp. 78 & 81.

²² Page 29.

²³ Gabrielle Roy born in Saint-Boniface, Manitoba, became a famous author, worked as a reporter for the *Quebec Bulletin des agriculteurs* from 1939. She roamed the regions of the province and wrote about her discoveries. Yvon Therrien says that, at the time, Gabrielle Roy was working on *Bonheur d'Occasion*, the novel that brought her fame. The people she met in Quebec's regions possibly inspired her, but the main thing is that being paid for her work for the Bulletin enabled her to write her novel as she explained in a later interview. (Source (in French): <https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1081680/bulletin-agriculteurs-yvon-therrien-gabrielle-roy>). Brief story in English at: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/weekend-morning-show-francobeat-gabrielle-roy-1.5914224>

²⁴ From Spanish = a work horse or low-quality horse: rocinante or rossinante.

²⁵ *Histoire du Vieux-Warwick et son patrimoine*, Warwick Historical Society, André Moreau, 2021, p. 80.

convent school run by the Congregation of the Assumption Sisters at Warwick²⁶.”

Alain Bergeron adds that Onésime Kirouac was also involved in every good (social) cause “he was a church warden, twice municipal councillor, president of the Warwick Knights of Columbus, director of the Duck Lake Sporting Club, member of the Bois-Francs Snowshoe Club and of the Victoriaville Club Le Chalet des cèdres (Cedar Chalet Club); president of the Warwick telephone company²⁷, director of the Agricultural Society of Arthabaska County.” As this was not enough, as seen in the above excerpt from an article published in the *Bulletin des agriculteurs*, in 1942, Onésime bought a farm and was involved in general agriculture as well as raising pigs for bacon, and poultry²⁸.

He and his first wife, Orise Cantin, had seven children between 1901 and 1920, three daughters and four sons who will also work for the *Warwick Woollen Mills*. His first wife, Orise, died on 19 September 1921. She was only forty years old. But 22 years later, on 25 September 1943, at the age of 67, he married his 44 year-old niece, Alvina Kirouac, daughter of his brother, Calixte.

To date, we know that, in Onésime’s branch, there are fifty-five descendants spread over five generations. Among them, there are some Kirouacs as well as Grenon, Thibodeau, Moquin, Alain, Vilallonga, Mondoloni, Castro, Daneau, Lambert, Bloxham, Sullivan, Blanchette, Proulx and Roberge.

On 25 December 1954, Onésime Kirouac died at the Hôtel-Dieu hospital at Arthabaska. He was 78 and had been sick only three months. To commemorate his passing, the Warwick Youth Chamber of Commerce offered their condolences to the family in the following terms:

“Onésime was the father of Lionel, Roland and Roger, well known Warwick industrialists. He was also the “*Good Father*



Onésime Kirouac and his second wife, Alvina Kirouac, at the Fatima Rock in Warwick. Alvina had this pilgrimage site built behind the convent of the Sisters of the Congregation of the Assumption.

Onésime or the Father of Warwick. (in French they called him: Bon Père Onésime or le Père de Warwick) as everyone referred to him. [...] The Warwick population will forever remember Father Onésime who always did good through his life.”

Onésime and Orise had four sons, except for Armand who died very young, the other three followed in their father's footsteps. Let's start with Lionel, the eldest.

Lionel Kirouac (1902-1980)

Besides the biography of Brother Marie-Victorin (born Conrad Kirouac) published in The Canadian Encyclopedia²⁹ and that of Léon-



From left to right: Sister Cécile des Anges, Missionary of the Immaculate Conception, Alvina Kirouac, Onésime Kirouac and Sister Sainte-Hortensia, Congregation of Notre-Dame, and older sister of Sister Cécile. Both nuns were nieces of Onésime, and daughters of his brother, Didace who lived at Bristol, Connecticut, USA. (Photo: René Kirouac collection)

²⁶ *L'Union*, 5 September 2001, Alain Bergeron ; *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, December 2001, Number 66, pages 32-33.

²⁷ Editor's note: *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, from 1940 to 1948.

²⁸ Alain Bergeron, *L'Union*, Wednesday, 5 September 2001.

²⁹ See <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/frere-marie-victorin>

Solyme Le Brice de Keroack³⁰, on the internet, very few biographies of our ancestor's descendants can be found, but there is one about his distant cousin, Lionel Kirouac³¹. Lionel, the eldest son, took over the *Warwick Woollen Mills* after his father.

Lionel was born in Warwick on 25 August 1902³². He completed his high-school studies at the Arthabaska College run by the Brothers of Christian Schools before attending the Eastern Business College in Poughkeepsie, New York State. He was only seventeen when he started his first job at the Canadian Provincial Bank in 1919. From there he went on to become an auditor. In 1925, he became director-manager of his father's factory, the *Warwick Woollen Mills*. In 1954, when his father died, he became president and remain at the helm until 1980.

In 1946, Lionel Kirouac with his two brothers, Rolland and Roger, and a few associates, created a new enterprise called *Les*

Filatures Warwick Cie Limitée. In the new factory *knitting machines were installed and knitting wool prepared*. This new company was sold to Lockport Felt of Newfane, New York State, in 1961; then bought by Weavex in 1993 and later by Xérium. Operations stopped in 2015³³.

Lionel Kirouac was also president of *Compagnie des Immeubles des Bois-Francs* in Victoriaville, president of *Filature de Warwick Compagnie Limitée*, vice-president of *Radio-Victoriaville* and president of the *Victoriaville Chamber of Commerce*. **He was also mayor of Warwick from 1941 to 1947**. He was President of the Warwick Council of the Knights of Columbus and Grand Knight and initiated the K of C's Fourth Degree in Warwick. He was honorary secretary and administrator of the Professional Association of Industrialists; Captain in the Canadian Military Engineers, a branch of the Canadian Armed Forces. In 1925, he founded the (Fanfare de) Warwick Brass Band and was its director during



Lionel Kirouac in November 1955
(Photo: KFA collection)

thirty-five years³⁴. As musician himself, he paid for the instruments for the twenty-five musicians³⁵ of de Warwick Brass Band.

From 1947 on, he was vice-president of *Presto Oil*, his brother Roger's company.

In 1949, Pope Pius XII awarded him the medal *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* for distinguished services to the Church.

³⁰ See http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/kerouac_leon_10F.html

³¹ French-Canadian Biographies, published by Raphaël Ouimet, member of the Montreal Historical Society 1920-1985, 1930, 1930 BANQ: (in French) <http://collections.banq.qc.ca/retrieve/6024841#page=354>

³² See a first biography I wrote in *L'Album* (p. 61) published by Raymonde Kerouac-Harvey for the first K gathering held in 1980; also in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, Winter 2011, no. 106, p. 34. See also *Biographies canadiennes-françaises*, 1960, Ottawa, J. A. Fortier.

³³ André Moreau, *Histoire du Vieux-Warwick et son patrimoine*, Warwick Historical Society, pp. 338-339.

³⁴ André Moreau, *Histoire du Vieux-Warwick et son patrimoine*, Warwick Historical Society, p. 379.

³⁵ Op. cit.



Onésime-F. Kirouac's family: left to right: Rolland, Onésime, Lionel, Bérangère, Orise (née Cantin) and Liliane around 1919. (Photo: Warwick Historical Society, section P5,S4,SS7)

On the family side, Lionel married Lillian Baker on 11 November 1926 in Sainte-Anne church at Danville (Quebec). She was the daughter of Joseph Albert dit (*known as*) Arby Baker and Anesta Pelletier. They had six children between 1927 and 1939, four daughters and two sons, Suzanne, Guy, Yvan, Marthe, Madeleine³⁶ and Micheline.

Many honours were bestowed on Lionel and the weekly *L'Union des Cantons de l'Est*³⁷ wrote that "Lionel Kirouac and his wife were inducted in the *Panthéon de la Renommée* (Warwick Hall of Fame, at a dinner attended by for 300 guests, including family members, Warwick citizens, people from the region and even from Montreal, all wanting to show their deep gratitude to the president of the local pioneering industries but also the man who always listened and subscribed to all requests brought to him and, to top it, was also a great sportsman."

When you visit Warwick, look at the present City Hall to admire Lionel Kirouac's private residence from 1937 to 1957³⁸.

Lionel died at 77 on 16 February 1980 in Saint-Lambert, Montreal south-shore. He was buried in Warwick parish cemetery three days later, on 19 February. His wife, Lillian Baker, born at Saint-Étienne-de-Lauzon on 31 March 1908, survived her husband by less than three months. On 3 May 1980, she died at Saint-Lambert and was interred beside her husband.

Guy Kirouac (1928-1997)³⁹

Guy was born in Warwick on 25 September 1928. From the early 1960s on Guy was vice-president. Although his father was president, Guy had really assumed that role. In 1980, when his father died, he officially became president of the *Warwick Woollen Mills*, becoming the third generation at the helm of the enterprise⁴⁰.

"Not only Guy administered the *Warwick Woollen Mills*, he wanted to expand it. Thus in 1969, the company acquired the Rosemont Knitting Inc., located in Ville LaSalle (Montreal), which enabled him to double its revenues and see the number of employees reach 230. In 1974, while many industries were going through hard times, the *Warwick Woollen Mills* was progressing and opened the Textile Marquis Inc. in Rigaud (south-west of Montreal). Adding ten more employees".⁴¹

In 1981, the Warwick Woollen Mills was sold to Filature de Plessisville, another weaving mill located in Plessisville, a town 25 miles north of Warwick. Unfortunately filing for bankruptcy, a year later.

In addition to managing *Warwick Woollen Mills*, Guy Kirouac was also director of the Warwick Spinning Company Limited, founded by his father, until it was sold to Lockport Felts, New York, USA in 1961.

Not only was Guy always working for the family enterprise through his active working life, but he was also vice-president of *Ski-bec*, a snowmobile firm established in Warwick in 1970-1971. After the enterprise declared bankruptcy, Guy bought it back and specialized in snowmobile parts for a few years⁴².

He was always involved in various things. For a while he was involved in real estate with the firm of Charles & Beaulieu for Transaction. He was also president and director of the Warwick Young Chamber of Commerce⁴³.

In 1973, his fellow citizens named him Warwick's *Man of the Year*⁴⁴. Two years later, in 1975, he was named Warwick's *Patriot of the Year* during the Warwick winter festival⁴⁵. "The main reason why he was declared Patriot of the Year is because of his love of sports and his keen desire to help young people



Guy Kirouac (1928-1997)
(Photo: Charles Kirouac)

³⁶ Madeleine married for the second time, with Jesús Carles de Villalonga i Rosell, (1927- 2018) an internationally acclaimed sculptor and painter, who was inducted Quebec's Ordre national in 2011 (see (*in French*): <https://www.ordre-national.gouv.qc.ca/membres/membre.asp?id=2817>).

³⁷ Issue of 5 May 1968, p. 40. (Research by Luc Boulanger)

³⁸ Many photos of the various Warwick residences belonging to Kirouac family members are part of the PDF entitled *Up & Down Memory Lanes, self-guided Historical & Genealogical Tour of Warwick and Surroundings* available on the KFA website at (*in French*): <https://irp.cdn-website.com/7bb0d2a7/files/uploaded/Warwick.pdf>

³⁹ For more information, see Luc Boulanger's document, (*in French*): [https://irp.cdn-website.com/7bb0d2a7/files/uploaded/Guy Kirouac Industriel de Warwick Version 15 février 2024.pdf](https://irp.cdn-website.com/7bb0d2a7/files/uploaded/Guy%20Kirouac%20Industriel%20de%20Warwick%20Version%2015%20février%202024.pdf)

⁴⁰ Luc Boulanger, personal contact.

⁴¹ *Le Nouvelliste*, Monday, 10 February 1975, p. 8. (Research by Luc Boulanger)

⁴² Research by Luc Boulanger.

⁴³ Research by Luc Boulanger.

⁴⁴ Luc Boulanger, personal communication.

⁴⁵ *Le Nouvelliste*, Monday, 10 February 1975, p. 8. (Research by Luc Boulanger)

involved in sports. Every year, Guy Kirouac helped the minor hockey league as well as helping out with the arena's administration. Being a former hockey player himself, Guy well remembered the pleasure it gave him when he was young. When thanking the population for choosing him as *PATRIOT OF THE YEAR*, Mr. Kirouac mentioned clearly that the reason he accepted was because all revenues from the evening were going to the arena." Like his father and grandfather before him, Guy played an important social role in Warwick.

On the family side, Guy Kirouac married Bernice Champagne on 24 October 1953 at Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes church in Verdun (Montreal). Born on 29 October 1932 in Verdun, Bernice was the daughter of Émile and Stella (née Lanteigne) Champagne. They had one daughter, Estelle, and a son, Charles. Bernice died on 29 January 1994, and Guy died at 68, on 16 July 1997, at the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital at Arthabaska. He was interred three days later, on 19 July 1997, in the parish cemetery at Warwick.

Yvan Kirouac (1930-1994)

We know very little about Yvan, Lionel's second son. We do know that he was one of the directors of the *Warwick Woollen Mills* and purchasing manager during his career.

Born at Warwick on 17 April 1930, he married Gabrielle Cayouette, daughter of Fernand and Lucie (née Lehouiller) Cayouette on 19 July 1952 in Saint-Joseph parish at Saint-Hyacinthe. They had four children, one boy and three girls, Pierre, Lucie, Maryse and Anne-Andrée. Yvan died at 63, on 3 April 1994 and was interred on 6 April in the parish cemetery at



Wedding photo of Yvan Kirouac (1930-1994) and Gabrielle Cayouette (1929-2018). (Photo: Pierre Kirouac, son of Ivan)

Warwick in his brother Lionel's plot. His wife, Gabrielle Cayouette, was born on 3 March 1929 at Tingwick and died at Victoriaville on 8 July 2018.

Now let us continue with the brothers of Lionel, the other sons of Onésime.

Rolland Kirouac (1906-1966)

Rolland, the second son of Onésime and Orise Cantin, was born on 27 August 1906 at Warwick.

He studied at the Richmond Academy in Richmond (Quebec) run by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart; then at Mont St-Louis in Montreal. He pursued his studies in England, at Bradford Technical College and at Leeds University specializing in textile.



Rolland Kirouac (1906-1966)
(Photo: Warwick Historical Society)

Back in Canada, he worked for his father, first as a technician; then as secretary-treasurer; and later as a director of the *Warwick Woollen Mills*. In 1938, he became the secretary-treasurer for Compagnie d'immeubles des Bois-Francs (real estate) when it was created. His brother, Lionel, was the president. In 1939, he bought a farm and operated it himself. The following year, on his land, with his father, Onésime, he planted 5000 apple trees, creating the Verger des Horizons (Horizon Apple Orchard)⁴⁶.

In 1940, with his brother, Lionel, he started a new enterprise, Crèmerie Rolland (dairy). He opened a pasteurization plant offering home delivery; it was a first in Warwick⁴⁷. On 24 September 1946, the Rolland dairy was sold to Joseph Bergeron⁴⁸, my mother's brother, and one of my uncles who also bought the apple orchard on 19 April 1960⁴⁹.

⁴⁶ *La Tribune*, 17 August 1951, section 2, page 23 ; André Moreau, *Histoire du Vieux-Warwick et son patrimoine*, Warwick Historical Society, p. 539.

⁴⁷ Op cit., p. 379.

⁴⁸ Op. cit. p. 537.



Crèmerie Rolland (Dairy) founded by Rolland and Lionel Kirouac in 1941. (Photo: Warwick Historical Society)

From 1947 on, Rolland was also secretary-treasurer of Presto Oil the enterprise owned by his brother, Roger.

Rolland Kirouac was one of the first members of the Canadian Imperial Guard in 1943, known until then as the *Frontiersmen*⁵⁰. This military corps created in 1905 in Great Britain, was brought to Canada after the First World War in order to maintain a group of disciplined well trained men ready to act in case of emergency. The *Frontiersmen* then served as frontier guard.

Rolland married Rolande Reny, on 27 October 1945, at Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens church in Victoriaville. They had no children. He died at 60, on 9 September 1966, after a lengthy illness.

The pall bearers at his funeral were all *Frontiersmen*: Gaston Beudet⁵¹, mayor of Warwick, Maurice Ling⁵², Jean-Paul Baril⁵³, Jean Marcotte, Roland Charron and Roland Boulanger⁵⁴. The funeral cortege was preceded by *Frontiersmen* chief of staff and the Warwick Brass Band, two organizations Rolland belonged to and greatly contributed to⁵⁵. He was interred at Warwick on 12 September 1966.

⁴⁹ Idem, p. 539.

⁵⁰ *La nouvelle Union*, 150th anniversary of Warwick 1860-2010, 6 October 2010, p. 39.

⁵¹ A building contractor.

⁵² Maurice Ling (1917-1979), Warwick industrialist, a distant cousin, son of Mathilda Kirouac, one of Rolland's cousin.

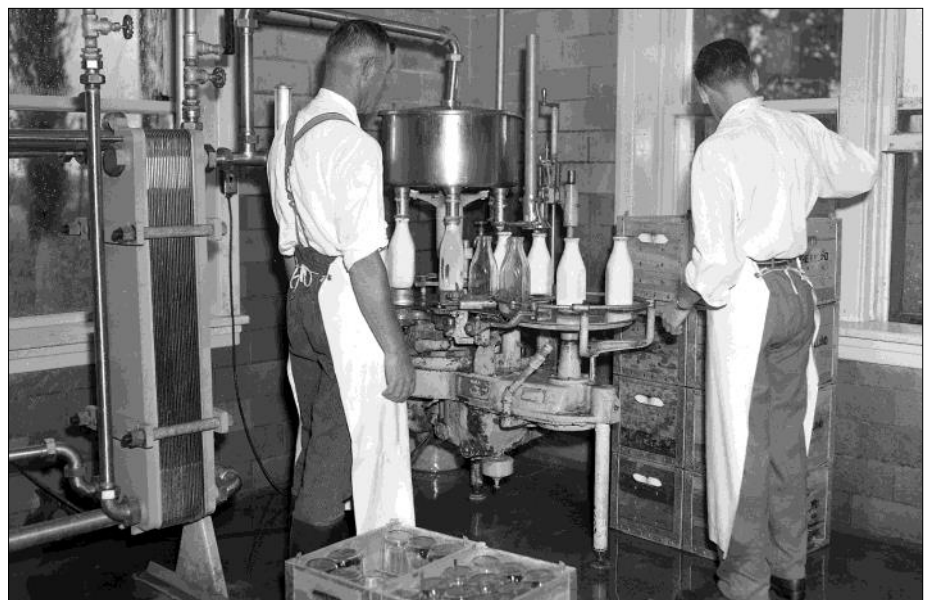
⁵³ A Warwick industrialist (1913-1985)

⁵⁴ A Warwick industrialist (1914-1976) Warwick mayor from 1958 to 1962.

⁵⁵ Rolland, a trumpet player, was one of Warwick Woolen Mills musicians playing in the Warwick Brass Band founded by his brother, Lionel.



(Photo: Warwick Historical Society)



Crèmerie Rolland (Dairy) in 1962. (Photo: Warwick Historical Society)

Rolande Reny, born on 30 November 1914 at Saint-Prospér, in the Beauce region of Quebec, died at Laval, north of Montreal, on 12 July 2008.

**Roger Kirouac
(1920-1970)**

Roger was born on 26 December 1921 at Warwick (Quebec). "After completing his studies at the Arthabaska College and at Mont Saint-Louis in Montreal, he joined his father and brothers in 1940 at the Warwick Woollen Mills, being one of the shareholders by then. After two years learning the ropes so to speak in the enterprise and all about fabrication, he became personnel manager in 1942, and remained in this post until 1947.

Then he became president of Presto Oil, while his brother Lionel was vice-president and Rolland was secretary⁵⁶. And he still remained one of the directors of the *Warwick Woollen Mills*.

Presto Oil was the most important independent distributor of petroleum products from Montreal to Quebec City, later becoming distributor for Irving Oil until the installations (of Presto Oil) were sold to Irving in 1956⁵⁷."



Roger Kirouac (1920-1970) as a *Frontiersmen* and his wife, Simone Houde (1921-2007). In front, Roger's sister-in-law, Lilian Baker (1908-1980), Lionel's wife. (Photo: Part of the photo printed in *L'Album* in 1980; photo from Maurice Kirouac's Collection)

Roger was a member of the Knights of Columbus, of the Chamber of Commerce and a Lieutenant in the Imperial Order of the *Frontiermen*⁵⁸.

On a personal level, Roger married Simone Houde, daughter of Wilfrid and Rosilda (née Desharnais) Houde on 26 August 1943 in Saint-

Médard parish church at Warwick. Between 1943 and 1953, they had four children: three girls and one son: Charlotte, Lise, Simon and Ginette. Roger died at 49, on 30 June 1970, and was interred at Warwick on 4 July 1970. His widow, Simone, born on 2 December 1921, died on 18 August 2007, at the age of 85.

**Philippe Kirouac
(1880-1948)**

Philippe, the fourth of Calixte Kirouac's five sons, was also in business but for a short time only.

Philippe, born on 15 June 1880 at Warwick, at the age of 24, married on 9 January 1905, Alphonsine Jolicoeur in Saint-Médard parish church at Warwick. She was the daughter of Louis and Marie (née Montambault) Jolicoeur from Tingwick, a nearby village. They had twelve children between 1905 and 1925.

⁵⁶ *Le Devoir*, Thursday, 21 October 1954, p. 10. (Research of Luc Boulanger)

⁵⁷ André Moreau, *Histoire du vieux Warwick et son patrimoine*, Warwick Historical Society, p. 236.

⁵⁸ *La Tribune*, Friday, 17 August 1951, section 2, p. 26. (Research of Luc Boulanger).



Le Verger des Horizons, (horizon apple orchard) created in 1940 by Rolland Kirouac, is still in business today.

(Photo : Warwick Historical Society)



The Irving Oil installations at Warwick in 1960, that is four years after Roger Kirouac sold his company, Presto Oil, to Irving. (Photo: Warwick Historical Society)

Using the birth dates of the children we know that the family lived in Warwick from 1905 to 1915; then at Sherbrooke from 1915 to 1920; then moved to Waterville, in the Coaticook Region (Quebec)⁵⁹ where Philippe and his wife rented a bakery and ran it although Philippe was not a baker. After the bakery burned down, the family moved to Montréal⁶⁰ where the youngest, a girl, was born in 1925.

Then Philippe, without his family, left for Connecticut to find work. After a three-month trial period, he came back to Montreal where he found work in a tailor shop, pressing men's suits. After a while the family moved to Detroit, Michigan. But unable to adapt to this new lifestyle, after a few years in the States, Philippe finally went back to live in Warwick (Quebec).

At Warwick, he worked for his brother, Onésime, at the *Warwick Woollen Mills*. He never went back to Detroit even when his whole family was definitely established there. Philippe and Alphonsine (née Jolicoeur) Kirouac are the ancestors of most Kirouacs living in the Detroit region.



Philippe Kirouac and Alphonsine Jolicoeur (Photo: KFA collection)



Bakery on St-Joseph Street at Warwick, operated by Philippe and Alphonsine (Jolicoeur) Kirouac in the early 1900s. Two buildings were constructed in 1901 by Marie Montambault, Alphonsine's mother. This photo shows the bakery (centre) and the house on the right in 1953, when the business belonged to one Gilles Croteau. (Photo: Warwick Historical Society)



Inside the bakery in 1953 (Photo: Warwick Historical Society)

⁵⁹ *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 72, June 2003, p. 22.

⁶⁰ *Op cit.*, p. 23.

Philippe died at Warwick at 67, on 8 April 1948. He was interred in the parish cemetery on 10 April 1948. His wife died at Los Angeles, California, on 28 April 1969, and interred at Detroit, Michigan.

To this day, we count 109 descendants for Philippe and Alphonsine, spread over five generations and all are American citizens called Kirouac, Downey, Delorme, Hart, Navarra, Bujak, Wise, Blanzzy, Sassack, Johnson, Miles, Migliore, Posey, Utecht, Robinson, Reed, Ciambelli, Ogonowski and Pattison.

Alphonse Kirouac (1883-1961)

Calixte Kirouac's last and youngest son was Alphonse who was also in business but for a very short time only.

Alphonse was born on 29 August 1883 at Warwick. On Monday, 17 June 1907, 23-year-old Alphonse married Mary Howard⁶¹ the adopted daughter of Thomas Jean Samson, owner of the Warwick Hotel. Mary was born on 25 October 1884 in Manchester, England. They had six children between 1908 and 1921, five survived to adulthood.

Alphonse started as a travelling salesman for the *Manufacture de hardes de Warwick*, like his older brother, François-Xavier. His territory included the northern part of the province of Quebec, from Quebec City all the way to the Saguenay region. On the First of April 1961, the Sherbrooke daily, *La Tribune*, mentioned that Alphonse had been a travelling salesman for fifty-four years. A few years earlier, *La Tribune* had written that he was a well-known businessman in Quebec's Eastern Townships.

Alphonse died at the age of 77, on 30 March 1961. He and his wife, Mary Howard-Kirouac were buried in Sherbrooke's Saint-Michel Cemetery. Mary died on 27 July 1963.

We know of 35 descendants of this couple spread over six generations. Among them, the members of the *Groupe Robert Kirouac*⁶², very well-known musicians in the sixties and seventies. There are also Gilbert, Langlois and Fortier.



CONCLUSION

Of course, besides the Kirouac businessmen from Warwick and the Kirouac in the toy business in Quebec City, many more families whose roots go back to our common Breton ancestor, were involved in commerce because it was a good way to earn a living including my own father, Bruno, who sold furniture during his lifetime, Muir store in Warwick.

Notwithstanding so many American cousins we met at KFA gatherings held in New England in 1984, 1991 and 2001.

To conclude, I am inviting you, the readers, to let us know of any other K-descendants who owned their livelihood in business. Do write their stories, and if you need some help doing so, do not hesitate to ask. It will be a pleasure to publish these pages of family history in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*.

Translated by Marie Lussier Timperley
for *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 144, Spring 2024.

⁶¹ See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 140, Autumn 2022, pp. 21-23.

⁶² See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 141, Spring 2023, pp. 5-9.



Calixte Kirouac (1841-1923) and
Clarisse Desharnais (1838-1895)

There are now 677 known descendants
of this couple, spread over seven
generations.

(Photo: KFA collection)

WARWICK: PROUD OF ITS POUTINE

by Sylvie Pion, CJAN 99,3
16 November 2023



Unveiling of a plaque commemorating the Guinness World Record for the world's largest poutine. From left to right: Jean Morin, **Fromagerie du presbytère**, Philippe Rancourt, **Fondation de l'Ermitage**, Noëlla Comtois, Warwick deputy mayor, Geneviève Leclerc, **Hôtel-Dieu Hospital** in Arthabaska, Sébastien Lemay, **Fromage Warwick**, and Étienne Bergeron, the event organizer. (Photo: Courtesy of the Town of Warwick)

A GUINNESS WORLD RECORD ACHIEVED ON SATURDAY, 3 AUGUST 2019

*This was the title of the article published in **Le Trésor des Kirouac**, Autumn 2019, number 130, pp. 32-33. Four years later, Warwick finally received the official confirmation that this delicious record was certified in 2021 and eventually published in an edition of the Guinness World Record Book.*

On Thursday, 16 November 2023, Warwick celebrated two historical events, it is now determined that poutine was created in Warwick and the Guinness World Record for the largest poutine in the world is official. The town marked the occasion by inaugurating two commemorative plaques. The first one was placed at "Parc des Étoiles d'Or" (golden stars park) where the event was held that garnered the Guinness World Record for the largest poutine ever made. It took 970 kilos (2139 pounds) of cheese curds, 1420 kilos (3131 pounds) of potatoes and 644 litres (142 imperial gallons) of the special brown sauce.

The second commemorative plaque was erected on Saint-Louis Street, where the "Café Idéal" stood in 1957. The plaque tells the story of the creation of poutine. Deputy mayor Noëlla Comtois was happy to say that the friendly

battle between certain towns in the Centre-du-Québec region had now come to a close. She also added that the decision is clear and final: Warwick holds the title: inventor of poutine.

Much gratitude to Mrs. Sylvie Pion and to Mr. Gilles Vachon, president of Cooperative radio web media des Sources and programming Director for CJAN FM99,3, CJAN Affichage, CJAN Media for giving us permission to publish the Web article.

(Source: <https://cjan.media/la-poutine-une-fierte-a-warwick/>)

Many thanks to Mr. Guy Raiche from the Warwick Historical Society for the photo of the second commemorative plaque installed where the Café Idéal stood in 1957.

Commemorative plaque indicating where Café Idéal stood in Warwick in 1950.

In the beginning

Mr. Gérard Roy bought the restaurant Café Idéal; at 363 Saint-Louis Street.



(Photo: Courtesy Guy Raiche)

1957 — The year poutine was created

Mr. Fernand Lachance and his wife Germaine (née Lettre), bought the restaurant. That year, Mr. Eddy Lainesse, a customer asked the owner, to put the two containers, one of fries and one of cheese curd in the same paper bag to take home.

That is when the owner said that it would make a real poutine*. WHAT A SUCCESS! So it was and more so when Mr. Lachance added some sauce on the fries and cheese to prevent them from cooling too rapidly.

1960 — A first

The "poutine" was first listed on a restaurant menu.

ANECDOTES

Mr. Lachance always believed that a good poutine should be eaten without sauce!

The sauce was added to poutine a little later. When Barbecued chicken appeared on menus, Germaine Lachance concocted a spicy red sauce for it and a brown sauce for Hot Chicken sandwich, she also created a special sauce for the poutine.

We also learned that, at the time, the cheesemaker arrived at the restaurant on Fridays at 5 p.m. The customers were already seated on stools at the bar waiting to add the cheese curd to their fries!

*POUTINE is "pudding" pronounced with a Quebec accent; and it came from the popular British Steam pudding always served with custard sauce.



(Photo: Courtesy of Warwick Historical Society)

SOCIAL CLASSES IN NEW-FRANCE

by André Goggin



*The present text, first published in **La Souche**, the (Fédération des familles souches), Quebec's Founding Families' bulletin on 10 December 2008, is of particular interest for Alexandre de Kervoach's descendants because it gives a clear picture of the social context in New-France during the 17th and 18th centuries. André Goggin studied that period because that is when his ancestor, Mathurin Chabot, left France and came to live in the new world.*

Our K ancestor lived in a very similar society. A society that would be considered profoundly non-egalitarian if compared with today's society, At the time, inequality was the norm, so like many bourgeois Alexandre aspired to reach a higher social echelon, the highest one, if possible.

Given all the privileges noble people enjoyed then, it is easy to understand why so many wanted to attain a higher social level and did all they could to do so; however, without necessarily ever reaching it. As for Alexandre de Kervoach, he may not have reached an upper echelon but he sure gave the impression of having done so. He was so successful at it, that it took his descendants nearly 300 years to understand what he had been trying to achieve. Enjoy reading!

The Editor

André Goggin writes: To better understand the era when Mathurin Chabot, my ancestor lived, the structure of society at the time must be carefully studied. So, let's go back 350 years.

Context

Society in New-France three centuries ago was very different from today's society. Democracy was totally unknown, it was born with the American Revolution (1776), and the French Revolution (1789) and here, with the Constitutional Act of 1791, which created our first parliament.

Democratic ideas had no value then. In France, the royal authority was

absolute¹. In addition, King Louis XIV wanted to install the same social structure in his colony of New-France.

France was divided into three levels: nobility, bourgeoisie and proletariat.

Here only 3% of the population belonged to the nobility, 8% to the bourgeoisie; the rest made up the ordinary people, the lower class².

Nobility

The nobles had to take arms to defend his Majesty the king at all time³.

Nobility was not a choice. "Noble" was a privilege granted by the king for services rendered or as a reward for military feats. Hereditary titles were passed down from father to sons.

Most nobles in the colony owned seigneuries, but very few garnered much profit from them or made much effort to look after them: they preferred posts in the colonial forces. Nobles justified their privileges through their military commandment⁴, giving orders⁵.

Nobles in New-France were not rich, nevertheless, they enjoyed a much higher standard of living than the ordinary folks. There was a court life at Quebec but was a very pale semblance of Versailles. There were balls, dinners, events and refined fetes but their elegance and luxury were completely foreign to the standard of living of most inhabitants⁶.

Pageantry was expected from the nobles, even if one had to go into debt for it. Houses needed to be bigger, nobles had to dress according to their social standing, had to be attended by servants and slaves; had to receive often and be received, no matter the cost. Young noblemen were allowed to duel, to keep mistresses and live like party animals without fear of reprisal. The education they wanted for their children was usually military training for their sons, while girls were taught good manners⁷.

Much respect was shown to nobles and upper bourgeoisie when referred to in legal and religious documents. Their family patronymic often included more than one name, even a number of names indicating their origins. Governor Frontenac was Louis de Buade, Count of Frontenac and de Pallau. The family name was often followed by "de" and preceded by Monsieur, or Sieur, Dame, (Miss) "Demoiselle".⁸

¹ LACOURSIÈRE, Jacques, *Histoire populaire du Québec, Des origines à 1791*, Septentrion, Québec, p. 150.

² TRUDEL, Marcel, *Histoire de la Nouvelle-France, La seigneurie des Cent-Associés, La société*, Fides, Montréal, 1983, p. 32-33.

³ LACOURSEÈRE, p. 150.

⁴ BROWN, Craig, LINTEAU, Paul-André, *Histoire générale du Canada*, Les éditions du Boréal, 1988, p. 186.

⁵ BROWN, LINTEAU, p. 156.

⁶ BROWN, LINTEAU, p. 187.

⁷ BROWN, LINTEAU, p. 189.

⁸ TRUDEL, p. 34.

Unlike the custom in France, nobles here could work without losing their privileges, as long as it was not manual work⁹. Nobles, who were mainly in the military, liked to draw some revenue through the fur trade as commandant of forts and trading post¹⁰. That usually enabled them to earn enough money to cover their expensive lifestyle as one of the upper class but, at the same time, showing bravery and devotion to the royal authority.

Early in the 18th century, New-France colonists could no longer count on being granted noble title for military achievements or for services to the king: henceforth Canadian nobles had to count only on immigration and transmitting their title to their heirs¹¹.

The higher clergy was generally considered part of the nobility and settled in Quebec City upper-town and Montreal. The rural clergy was generally from the lower class. Bishop François de Montmorency-Laval (1623-1708) was noble and owned the seigneurie of Beaupré.

The nobles always kept close links with France. Of course, once the colony was the conquered by the British, the “noble” boarded the first ships returning to France. Easy enough for them to do so given they held the highest civil and military functions.

Bourgeoisie

Towns were business centres held by a core of merchant families. In Montreal, commerce was essentially fur trading; in Quebec it was import-export. The merchants were masters at the game of credit, in accounting and in business discussions. But the bourgeois had to fight on two fronts, rivalry between local nobles and rivalry with the mother-country's nobles who fully intended to keep controlling all the colonial commerce¹².

Retailers sold clothes, crockery, cutlery, tools, and all equipment to the general population, but real fortunes were made, or undone, at a higher business level, particularly in fishing and fur trading¹³.

Bourgeoisie was not transmitted through heredity and there was no royal charter confirming that one belonged to that social class. Trade masters were part of the low bourgeoisie. The title of trade master was not for anyone who wanted it. There were strict rules and strong regulations. Only the death of a master created a vacancy. The trade master plied his trade helped by interns and apprentices who all belonged to lower class.

France, the mother-state, added a particular incentive to emigrating (to the new world) for trade people: those who plied their trade or arts for six years in New-France, if and when they return to France, would be recognized as master in their trade and arts, and as masters would be allowed to open shop in Paris or in other towns; this kind of internship systematically gave ordinary people the possibility to reach the level of bourgeoisie¹⁴.

According to Mathurin's declaration in his wedding contract, his father was a bourgeois, so we can well understand his own desire to join that social class as he knew that he would not acquire it through heredity or inheritance. That may be the main reason why Mathurin decided to leave the old country for New-France.

Lower Class

Ordinary people's main attribute was to obey the king or his representative, the governor¹⁵.

The king did not negotiate with ordinary people.

The lower class included artisans and servants. The artisans included the tradesmen: builders, carpenters, cabinetmakers, blacksmiths, butchers, bakers, innkeepers, dressmakers, tailors and sergers. An artisan usually headed a small family enterprise: the master, his wife and one or two apprentices. The servants included indentured servants and black slaves from the West Indies and *panis*, i.e., Amerindians captured by another Amerindian tribe during warring expeditions. The lower class also included soldiers garrisoned in a town and hired as day-workers in peace time¹⁶.

The immigrant who abandoned his country, his family and all his relatives to move to another country usually did so in order to improve his lot¹⁷. He had no idea about the problems he would face when clearing land. Normally he had no farming experience either.

⁹ HARDY, Jean-Pierre, *Chercher fortune en Nouvelle-France*, Libre-Expression, Montréal, 2007, p. 20.

¹⁰ HARDY, p. 20.

¹¹ BROWN, LINTEAU, p. 158.

¹² BROWN, LINTEAU, p. 192.

¹³ HARDY, p. 21.

¹⁴ TRUDEL, p. 6.

¹⁵ LACOURSIÈRE, p. 150.

Observations

The seigneurs were not all nobles: it was not a prerequisite to be noble to obtain a seigneurie and obtaining a seigneurie did not make a man a noble.

Society then included a very small elite with privileges and a very large number of poor farmers. An absolute government ruled and no one ever thought about representative institutions.

The elite's authority was paternalist and held over the colony's inhabitants. The King's will was presented to the people and never the other way around¹⁸.

Those called metropolitan, were the governor, the administrator, known as the "intendant" in New France, the bishop and senior public servants, ruled society. Aristocrats who came to the colony mainly as a career move were likely to leave eventually; they formed the most French portion of society. The second layer, slightly larger, included military officers and colonial merchants; most of them were born in the colony. That social group included a mix of aristocrats and bourgeois. As for the ordinary citizens, the inhabitants, most of the population included town and country artisans. The Amerindians were at the bottom of the social pyramid¹⁹.

Many inhabitants and soldiers during the 17th century were granted patent of nobility for services to the Crown; the LeMoynes and Boucher families are an excellent example²⁰. After 1700, successful commoners were no longer raised to nobility by the king²¹.

Within this society, the state rigidly determined interaction between classes. It was extremely rare for anyone to climb up the social ladder, especially because educational institutions were only opened to the bourgeoisie and the aristocracy²².

Rural population in New-France was massively illiterate; it was essentially the same in towns, only people who absolutely needed it learned to read and write. Education was essentially religious indoctrination and genteel work for the elite, or an immediate preparation to enter liberal professions and commerce²³.

One example of social climbing is Charles Aubert de La Chesnaye, who lent money to Mathurin on his wedding in 1661, so from merchants' clerk, lower class, he was ennobled by the king in 1693²⁴. (Biography on Wikipedia)

However, like in the snake-and-ladder game, one can also abruptly tumble down in the social hierarchy: Abraham Martin, a Saint Lawrence's master pilot was a respected personage during Champlain's time. The Plains of Abraham and the Coast of Abraham in Quebec City were named after him. However, in 1649, after being accused of raping a teenage girl, we ignore how the case ended but Abraham Martin's prestige was ruined and he never again held a position in society²⁵.

Historians divided society in three parts: those who ruled, those who prayed, and those who worked²⁶.

Please harness my horse!

Noblemen must be able to ride (a horse). But, hitching a horse to a cart or a carriage is another matter altogether. That task had to be carried out by a servant or a slave. A noble could never be seen by his equals or someone from a lower echelon doing such a humble task, that is, undignified for one in his social level. One had to have a servant to hitch a horse to a carriage to drive the family to Mass at the parish church. If the carriage got stuck in a mire, rest assured that the upper-crust gentleman was unlikely to help his servant get out of the rut. He would have told him to get help. Save face at all costs was the rule, even in front of other servants.

Now, please harness my horse!

English Translation by Marie Lussier Timperley
for *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 144



¹⁶ BROWN, LINTEAU, p. 194 -196.

¹⁷ HARDY, p. 6.

¹⁸ BROWN, LINTEAU, p. 202.

¹⁹ CARDIN, Jean-François, COUTURE, Claude, *Histoire du Canada*, Presses de l'Université Laval, Québec, 1996, p. 29.

²⁰ CARDIN, COUTURE, p. 29.

²¹ BROWN, LINTEAU, p. 186.

²² DICKINSON, John, YOUNG, Brian, *Brève histoire socio-économique du Québec*, Septentrion, Québec, p. 51.

²³ BROWN, LINTEAU, p. 203.

²⁴ TRUDEL, p. 577.

²⁵ TRUDEL, p. 579.

²⁶ BROWN, LINTEAU, p. 156.

Marcelle Gauvreau and Algology of the Gaspé Peninsula by André St-Arnaud, General Director of CJN⁸

Marcelle Gauvreau (1907-1968) spent a number of warm seasons studying phanerogams (seed bearing plants), then concentrated her efforts on harvesting and studying marine algae found on the shores on both sides of the Saint-Lawrence (1933 to 1937), however, concentrating her research on the distribution of those plants on the Gaspé peninsula. In the Charlevoix-Saguenay region (1937), Claire Morin (1905-1994)¹ worked with her. In 1934, she researched the Magdalen Islands with Georgette Simard (1911-2001). In 1934, the botanist, Joseph-Émile Jacques, gave a talk at ACFAS² about some algae growing in freshwater in the Gaspé Peninsula.

Jules Brunel (1905-1986), who had taken part in the first research for the Institut Botanique between 1920 and 1924, studied algology in freshwater in the Montreal region. His assistant then was Cécile Lanouette (1914-1994). In 1938, he studied the Provincial Laurentian Park³. In 1939, he searched from Mingan to Blanc-Sablon on the Quebec North Shore, harvesting large quantities of algae.

After spending five summers actively researching algae in various regions and one year writing her thesis, in 1939, Marcelle Gauvreau presented her first paper on Quebec's Marine Algae (*Les algues marines du Québec*) at Montreal University's Sciences Department for her master's degree in science. She received the ACFAS award for her thesis.

Professor William Randolph Taylor (1895-1990), from the University of Chicago, author of *Marine Algae of the North-eastern Coast of North America*, accepted to determine the specimens harvested during the first exploration in 1933, and revised the others harvested and identified by Marcelle Gauvreau during the following years. Original notes were presented at the annual ACFAS congress in 1933, 1934, 1937 and 1938.



(Photo source: Brunel, Jules. *Les grandes étapes de l'algologie américaine*, Société Canadienne d'Histoire Naturelle, 1944, 34 pages.)

To carry out this research, Marcelle Gauvreau first thanked: Brother Marie-Victorin (1885-1944), who helped her and strongly encouraged her to pursue the study of algae; also Jules Brunel (1905-1986)⁴, who guided her first steps in algology and gave her precious advice; Jacques Rousseau (1905-1970), botanist at the Montreal Botanical Garden, for his helpful suggestions; Rudolph Martin Anderson (1876-1961), zoologist, and Alf Erling Porsild (1901-1977), botanist, who enabled her to consult the (Canadian) National Herbarium in Ottawa and allowed her to keep many specimens for further study.



Marcelle Gauvreau (1907-1968)
(Photo: Montreal Botanical Garden)

during which time professor Elzéar Campagna (1898-1987), from the Agricultural School at Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière's, harvested marine algae in the Gaspé Peninsula from 1938 to 1950, especially in Baie-des-Sables, Sainte-Flavie, Sainte-

¹ Claire Morin, a K descendant through her grandmother, Philomène Le Brice de Keroack-Côté; she married Roger Gauthier (1906-1982) a close collaborator of Brother Marie-Victorin.

² French-Canadian Association for the Advancement of Sciences created in 1923 by a group of University of Montreal professors including Brother Marie-Victorin, botanist, in order to promote scientific activity, encourage research and share knowledge in French.

³ Le Parc des Laurentides, = Provincial Laurentian Park, located between Quebec City and the Saguenay Region.

⁴ Jules Brunel (1905-1986), *Les grandes étapes de l'algologie américaine*, Société Canadienne d'Histoire Naturelle, 1944. 34 pages. American algology's main development stages, published in 1944 by the Canadian Society of Natural History.

In 1940, the typed work was published in a booklet form entitled: *Les Algues marines du Québec (Quebec's Marine Algae)*. It was deposited at the library of the University of Montreal's Botanical Institute. After some ten years,

Félicité, Matane, Cap-Chat, Les Méchins, Marsoui, Gros-Morne, Rivière-Madeleine, Mont-Louis, Rivière-au-Renard, L'Anse-au-Griffon, Grande-Rivière, Cap-d'Espoir and Chandler. These explorations were an important complement to the research already done by Marcelle Gauvreau.

Marcelle travelled along the Saint-Lawrence sometimes by boat with the Coast Guard or with fishermen. She patiently hunted marine algae, sometimes running barefoot on the beaches and rocks. Then back in town, alone in the evening in the old university⁵ she examined the results of her catch while the rats were demolishing ceilings and walls.⁶ Her thesis might never have been written because one day, during one of her explorations, she got stuck on a rock quite far from the shore cut off by thick fog. She did not dare move, she was scared that putting one foot forward or backward would mean falling into a water hole⁷.

In July 1950, a group of forty students, men and women, most of them natural science teachers, were going to the Biology Station at Grande-Rivière, in Gaspé, to attend classes on marine biology organized by the CJN⁸, in collaboration with the Provincial Department of Youth and Welfare and the personnel of the Biology Station. Prof. Elzéar Campagna (1928-1977) gave the algology course and organized many excursions. The students were so enthused by their professor's energy and dynamism that they demanded that the manuscript on algology be published as it served to identify the algae they harvested. Thus, *Les algues marines du Québec* (Quebec's marine algae) was published. In order to finance the publication, Jacques Rousseau (1905-1970), botanist, and Jules Labarre (1904-2001), professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy at University of Montreal, applied to the Quebec Provincial Office for Scientific Research and to the Quebec Department of Fisheries

who, the next year, granted \$1,400 for the publication.

Thus, Marcelle Gauvreau started work again organizing the flora of the algae in Quebec. She took the time to study what had been collected and what was submitted by Mr. Campagna and other collectors, including information about the many localities of provenance. She studied the distribution of the algae by checking the most important papers on algology published since 1940. The result was a greatly enriched work.

Marcelle Gauvreau saw, read, annotated and studied every specimen preserved in various herbariums. For Grande-Rivière and nearby localities, Elzéar Campagna and the Brothers Sylvio (Albert Legault) (1919-2011), Samuel (Samuel Brisson) (1918-1982) and Claude (Marcel Côté) (1916-2004) from the De LaSalle Brothers Congregation (FEC at Mont-Saint-Louis College in Montreal) had all the main species from the Gaspé Peninsula. Duplicates of all the specimens collected are still at the University of Michigan. The remaining specimens went to the Marie-Victorin Herbarium at the Montreal Botanical Garden.

Finally, in 1956, the first book about algae was published under the auspices of the Montreal Botanical Garden. Unfortunately, for financial reasons, the MBG could not publish Marcelle Gauvreau's entire text and print all her illustrations. The MBG printed a general geographical distribution and omitted the long lists of specimens that she had studied. Nevertheless, if the work loses points on certain things, it may win points on other facets. This book became the basis for all future algology studies.

Sources

La revue trimestrielle canadienne

La Patrie, 13 March 1956, p. 8, quotidien de Montréal (1879-1978).

Montreal Botanical Garden Archives



Marcelle Gauvreau harvesting algae. Photo AUQAM, Fonds Marcelle-Gauvreau, number 7p6 1/69.

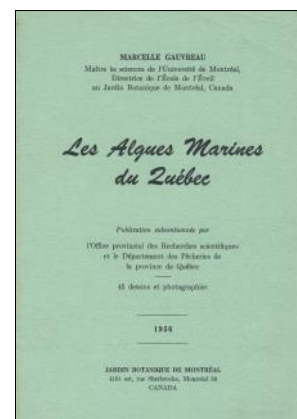


Photo: André St-Arnaud

⁵ *Old University: Montreal University was lodged in an old building on Saint-Denis Street before the campus on the mountain was inaugurated in 1935.*

⁶ *Translation of an excerpt from <https://grandquebec.com/femmes-du-quebec/promotion-femmes>: At the Sciences Department, women are present. Since 1935, they have garnered seventeen Licences, seven Masters and are preparing two doctorates. Natural Sciences are particularly in the spotlight thanks to Marcelle Gauvreau who was the first woman to obtain a Master in Sciences*

⁷ *In GASPÉSIE magazine, Vol. 48 No. 3, Hiver (winter) 2012, see the article entitled L'École de la Route un loisir pas comme les autres (On the road school, a leisure activity like no others.*

⁸ *CJN, Cercles des Jeunes Naturalistes, (young naturalists circles) created in 1931 by Brother Marie-Victorin.*

Sister H el ene (1832-1916)

Research by Andr e St-Arnaud

This article is based on Sister H el ene's obituary written in the style used by religious congregations in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The information about the Sisters of Providence comes from various Web sites and were prepared by The Editor.

We are most grateful to Mrs. Marie-Claude B eland, archivist of the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence, for her generous help.

On 6 December 1832, at Berthier-sur-Mer, a small village on the St. Lawrence south-shore, was born **Rose-de-Lima-de-Lima Ad ela ide Joncas**, a daughter to Th odore Joncas and his wife born **Brigitte Kirouac** (GFK 00011). She was baptized the following day. Brigitte Kirouac was the daughter of **Louis Kirouac** and his wife, Marie-Marthe Cloutier. On 31 May 1848, when only 16, Rose-de-Lima Ad ela ide entered the congregation of the Sisters of Providence. She was the forty-sixth young woman entering the new congregation and was admitted by the foundress herself,  Emilie Gamelin (1800-1851)¹.

As was the tradition then, she was given her religious name: **Sister H el ene**. Sister H el ene had the opportunity to draw at the original source, that of the foundress, and through her life she showed the purest religious spirit, and it always characterized her. She was very devoted to all tasks she undertook whether looking after the poor, the orphans and even some pupils.

Eventually, she became secretary, counsellor, assistant and, eventually, superior. Sister H el ene's talents and aptitudes were appreciated in various missions away from Montreal that of Saint-Vincent-de-Paul, Joliette, Laprairie, Trois-Rivi eres, and Ville Saint-Louis where she was a superior for two three-year terms. In 1892, she was assigned to work at the Asile de la Providence², Montreal's hospice looking after the neediest.

Once more, she proved a precious resource for the community's work, starting as a local assistant until she became a counsellor in 1899 and later provincial assistant. She used her natural talents and practical knowledge gathered through experience. In 1909, after sixty years of devoted service, she was discharged of her official responsibilities; however, she scrupulously attended to lighter work proportioned to her



Photo: Congr egation of the Sisters of Providence

Sister H el ene (1832-1916),
n ee Rose-de-Lima Ad ela ide Joncas

age (late seventies). Gracefully obliging, visiting the sick, gently and nicely calming a younger sister with an anxious mind with courtesies, kindly acts, even soft and pious songs. Righteousness, straightforwardness, sound judgment, strong character, quick and cultivated intelligence, dignified manners, these many advantages doubled with a profound respect for authority, a deep love for her Congregation which she knew since its first days, having also shared its sacrifices, as well as following with great interest its

¹  Emilie Tavernier-Gamelin (1800-1851), a widow by 1827, put herself at the service of society's neediest. Soon she was called the *Paupers' Providence*. The Congregation of the Sisters of Providence was legally created in 1844 by Bishop Bourget (Montreal's bishop 1840-1876). Seven novices made their vows as well as the foundress, from then on known as Sister Gamelin. She became Superior then and remained so until her death on 23 September 1851. She was beatified in 2001 by Pope John-Paul II. During the 19th century Montreal's population grew more than 300 times and social needs grew exponentially. Thousands of young women answered the call of Sister Gamelin and the Congregation answered requests for help from all over the North American continent, from east to west, north to south; even in Chile, South America. This helps to better appreciate the contribution of Sister H el ene who was the forty-sixth young woman who entered the Congregation in 1848; but, by the time she died in 1911, the

Sisters of Providence counted thousands of nuns. She was involved in the creation of many houses in the province of Quebec as well as holding administrative positions, including being a superior until 1892. Besides establishing hospices, the Sisters of Providence were pioneers in everything to do with healthcare: hospitals, hospices, orphanages, nursing schools, etc.

Info sources: various Web sites.

² *Asile de la providence* - Hospice built in 1842 in Montreal, by the Sisters of Providence, was demolished in 1963 to make way for the Montreal underground.

prodigious development. Until one day, Monseigneur Latulippe (1859-1922), first bishop of Haileybury, visiting the hospice was asked to urgently visit the dying Sister H el ene to give her a last blessing. She was well aware of him blessing her. Ten minutes later, slowly tilting her head, her beautiful soul left this earthly world.

It was at the Providence Hospice, the congregation's cradle, where sixty-eight years earlier, the novitiate doors had opened to a young girl asking to be let in, that she piously fell asleep after only a few hours of illness (pulmonary congestion) on 21 July 1916, at the age of eighty-three years, seven months and fifteen days. The Funeral Mass was sung in the Chapel of the Providence Hospice by Chanoine B elanger, the parish priest of Saint-Andr -Avellin, assisted by Messer's D ecarie and Ouellette, as deacon and subdeacon. On 24 July, her mortal remains were interred in the

congregation's cemetery at Saint-Jean-de-Dieu³.

³ St-Jean-de-Dieu was built by the Sisters of Providence in 1873 at the east end of the island of Montreal. It was quickly surrounded by a village that included the Congregation's cemetery which was destroyed to allow the construction of Tunnel-Bridge Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine. The bodies were exhumed and re-interred at *cimetiere Le Repos Saint-Fran ois-d'Assise*, a large Cemetery in the east-end of Montreal island.

Photographic Heritage of the Kirouac Family

We used to publish old photos that Kirouac families sent us to be preserved in the archives of our Association.

Here is a photo that Mr. Luc Boulanger, retired lawyer, member of the Warwick Historical Society (Quebec) sent us because it shows two Miss Kirouacs, Eva and Clara.

For more than three years, Mr. Boulanger has been working to preserve collections of photos of various families in Warwick, his hometown, for future generations.

If you have old family photos, please share them with us and, with your permission, we will publish them in *Le Tr sor*.

The Editor



Young women from Warwick (Qu bec) in 1923: from left to right, seated in the front: Bernadette Par ,  va P pin, L ontine Lecompte, two sisters,  veline Demers and Olivine Demers; standing at the back, in the same order: Ros e Boutin, Clara Carri res,  va Kirouac (1899-1993), daughter of  variste Kirouac and Marie-Jeanne Plourde, Lucia Perreault, Yvonne Boutin, Diana Denoncourt, Clara Kirouac (1902-1994), daughter of  variste Kirouac and Marie-Jeanne Plourde, and  va Plourde. (Photo from Aim  Boucher, Foyer  toile d'Or, Warwick.)

IN MEMORIAM

GRINSTEAD MAX L. (1935-2024)

Max L. Grinstead, of Bourbonnais, IL, died 16 February 2024 at the age of 88. Born 20 August 1935 in Chebanse, IL he was the son of Issac and Blanche Curwick Grinstead (**daughter of Paul Curwick and granddaughter of Policarpe Curwick [GFK 00178]**). Max married Lois Pallissard on 15 December 1957 in Deselm, IL. A veteran of the U.S. Army, Max served in 1955-1956. Surviving are his wife of 66 years, Lois; his children, Michael, Mark, Martin (Shawn Lanham); his grandchildren, Matthew (Corran), Mark, and Jacob. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Raymond and Henrietta Grinstead, and Marvin and Sandra Grinstead; one granddaughter, Mandy Grinstead. A graveside service was held on 26 February 2024 at the Limestone Cemetery in Limestone, IL.

HURTUBISE-LAFRENIÈRE, GABRIELLE (1918-2024)

In Longueuil, on 2 February 2024, at the age of 105 years and one month, Gabrielle Hurtubise wife of the late Paul Lafrenière passed away. She was the daughter of Alfred Hurtubise and **Germaine Kirouac (GFK 00842)**. She is survived by her children, Germain (Céline Panneton), Pauline (Carlo Buono), her grandchildren Ian (Martine Beauchemin) and Cédric (Kelly Hemsley), her great-grandchildren Kloé, Léane, Matteo and Gabriel, her sister Monique Hurtubise, her nephews and nieces, the entire Hurtubise, Lafrenière and Kirouac families, as well as many relatives and friends. Funeral mass was on 2 March, 2024 at St-Antoine-de-Padoue cathedral in Longueuil.

KIROUAC, BRITTANY (2005-2023)

At home, in Saint-Raymond-de-Portneuf, on 22 November 2023, aged 18, died Brittany Kirouac, daughter of Steve Kirouac and Mélissa Barbeau. On 9 December 2023 a religious service took place at the North-Shore Funeral Cooperative in Saint-Raymond. Besides her parents, Brittany leaves to mourn her sister, Ariane and her brother, Jacob; her grandparents: Pierre Barbeau (the late Colette Gagnon), Hélène Kirouac (Richard Paquet).

KIROUAC, GILLES (1946-2023)

At Saint-Jérôme, on 18 January 2023, died Gilles Kirouac (**GFK 01121**), son of Robert Kirouac and Ursule Cloutier. He leaves to mourn his children: Chantal and Stéphane Kirouac.

KIROUAC, MICHEL (1952-2023)

On 10 December 2023, at the Ste-Marie Long Term Care facility in Jonquière, aged 71 years and nine months, died Michel Kirouac, husband of the late Rita Aubut. He was the son of the late Edna Gagnon and the late Raymond Kirouac (**GFK 01683**). He leaves to mourn his son, Michael Kirouac; his grandchildren: Anthony and Khloé; his siblings: Robert Kirouac (Lyse Gagnon), Viviane (Lucien Dufour), Réjean (Thérèse Robichaud), Claude, Yvan (Nancy Larouche); his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Aurélien Aubut, Marguerite (the late Guy Lapierre), Stella (Roger Bergeron), Marie-Anne (Pierre Dufour), Armand (Michèle Serre). He was the brother-in-law of the late Maurice Aubut (Claudette Montmagny), the late Xavier (the late Denise Guérin), the late Euclide (Monique Girard), the late Émilien (Colette Gauthier), and the late Serge.

KIROUAC, THÉRÈSE (1933-2023)

On 22 February 2023 died Thérèse Kirouac (**GFK 02287**), widow of Georges Chevalier. She was the daughter of Alexandre and Blanche (née Laroche) Kirouac. She leaves to mourn her children: France Chevalier, Marco Chevalier and Danny Chevalier.

KIROUAC, ROLAND ROGER (1942-2024)

Roland Roger Kirouac, 82 of Canton, Maine, died on 13 Feb. 2024. He was born on 11 Feb. 1942 in Lewiston, Maine. He spent the majority of his career driving tractor trailer trucks across the country. After retirement he moved back to Maine settling in Canton where he met his "true love" Kathy Hutchins. He was predeceased by his parents Roland and Cecile Kirouac; and his son Mark Kirouac. He is survived by his daughter Donna Kirouac, partner Mike Simpson and granddaughter Olivia Simpson; daughter-in-law Carmen (Dan) Cote; granddaughter Kymberly (Adam) Roberge and their children Brylee and Corbin. A private service was held.

LAPIERRE, LUCIENNE (1925-2023)

At the Macamic long term care centre, on 13 December 2023, at 98, died Lucienne Lapierre, widow of Robert Kirouac (**GFK 02153**). She was the daughter of Lucien and Marguerite (née Gauthier) Lapierre. She leaves to mourn her son, Luc (Denise Lemay) and her daughter, Louise (Otis Plageman); her grandchildren: Ann (David Goulet), Marie-Claude (Sébastien Emond) and Trey; her great-grandchildren: Camille, Maxime, Jacob, Meaghan and Matys; her siblings: Anthime, Maurice, Irène, Noël, Cécile and Ovila; the late Yvon and the late Henri-Louis. Funeral on 18 May 2024 at St-André Church in La Sarre. Interment in La Sarre Cemetery. Mr. & Mrs. Lapierre-Kirouac attended many KFA annual gatherings.

LORD, NICOLE
(1951-2024)

At the Montmagny Hospital, on 2 January 2024, aged 72, died Nicole Lord, widow of Denis Fortin. She was the daughter of Blanche Kirouac (GFK 02173) and Louis-Marie Lord. She leaves to mourn her daughters: Mélissa and Katerine (Vincent Marois); her granddaughter, Marine. She was the sister and sister-in-law of the late Bruno (Nicole Poitras), Ginette, the late Priscille (Marcel Bernier), Colette (Serge Roussel), Rachel (Pierre Harvey); from the Fortin family: Julie (the late Marcel Lord), the late Nicole, André (France Carignan) and Richard (Louise Marsolais). Funeral was on 20 January 2024 at Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Church in L'Islet. Her ashes will be placed in the Parish Columbarium.

**MERCIER-MORELLO,
PAULINE**
(1930-2023)

Pauline H. Morello, 93, died in Moultonborough, N.H., on 15 October 2023. Born in Nashua, N.H., on 8 January 1930, she was the daughter of Arthur and Irene Kerouac (GFK 01546) Mercier. She married Kenneth Morello on 7 October 1950. Her husband died of cancer in 1979. She lived in Spring Hill, Florida, to escape the cold New England winters and summers in New Hampshire. She also leaves to mourn her brother Ernest Mercier; her four children, Kenneth & Lorette Morello, Michael & Beverly Morello. David Morello, and Kathleen (Morello) & Dan Baker; her 53 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren and 11 great-great-grandchildren and many other relatives. Pauline was the sister of the late Robert Mercier, Normand Mercier, Roger Mercier, Paul Mercier, Hank Mercier, Theresa Sevigny, Rita Vigneault and Janet Dube. A Funeral Mass was held at St Joseph the Worker Roman Catholic Church in Nashua, N.H., on 15 November 2023, followed by a private graveside service.

POULIN, MICHEL
(1946-2024)

At the Jeffery Hale Hospital in Quebec City, on 15 January 2024, at the age of 77, died Michel Poulin, husband of Louise Frenette. He was the son of the late Jacqueline Kirouac (GFK 02381) and the late Rolland Poulin. He leaves to mourn his wife, Louise, his children: Isabel and Patrick (Renée Gagnon); his grandchildren: Éli and Lou; also his brother-in-law, Daniel Frenette (Huguette Simard); his niece Jessica and nephew, Sébastien; his cousins from the Kirouac and Poulin families, and the Langlois and Frenette cousins on his wife's side.

ROMERO, PATRICK E.
(1927-2023)

Patrick E. Romero died on 13 October 2023, in Redding, CA. He was born on 17 March 1927 in Fort Collins, Colorado, the second of six children, to Juan De Dios and Martha (Martinez) Romero. He lived in California from 1946 on. He was pre-deceased by his parents and siblings Stephen, Philip, Beatrice, Charlotte, and Thomas. He married the love of his life, Marie C. Keroack (GFK 01228) on 7 October 1954, in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. They had four children: Rene-Pierre, Marc (Carmen), Victoria Villa-Lobos, and Victor. After Marie's tragic death in 1975, Patrick had two additional children: Denise Romero (deceased); and Patrice Romero. Patrick leaves behind five children, several grandchildren, and many other relatives. Interment was in the Old Mission Cemetery, San Luis Obispo, CA.

SAINDON, JAMES
(1944-2024)

James "Jim" Saindon, of Bourbonnais, died on 10 January 2024, after an extended illness. He was born 18 May 1944, in Watseka, the son of Louie and Lucille (Regnier) Saindon. Jim married Pam Kyrouac Saindon (GFK 00251) on 23 November 1985, at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Kankakee. Surviving are his wife, Pam; his son and daughter-in-law,

Curt and Kathy Saindon; his daughter, Shelley Saindon; his grandchildren, Kellen and Larrigan Saindon, his sister, Louanna Arseneau, and several brothers and sisters-in-law, Cherie Saindon, Frances Saindon, Ron and Kathy Joubert, Steve and Diane Kyrouac, Mike and Stephanie Kyrouac, Bori and Joann Ruel, and Chris and Nancy Estensen; and several nieces and nephews. Preceding him in death were his parents; and three brothers, John, Larry and Thomas Saindon. A memorial Mass will take place on his 80th anniversary on 18 May 2024, at St. George Catholic Church.

**SAINDON KIROUAC,
JEANNINE**
(1932-2024)

Jeannine Saindon, wife of the late Albert Kirouac (GFK 01611), passed away on February 3, 2024 at the CHSLD of St-Gervais-de-Bellechasse at the age of 91. She was the daughter of the late Émile Saindon and Élise Beaulieu. She is survived by her children: Claire (Jacques Paradis), Ginette (Jean-Paul Brière), Sylvie (Denis Maheux), Christian and Nathalie; her grandchildren: Dale, Sabrina, Alexandre, Olivier, Jordan and Jérémie; her great-grandchildren: Ophelia, Theodore, Alec and Dayton; her sisters: Fernande and Marie-Ange Saindon; her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law of the Saindon and Kirouac families. Her funeral mass was celebrated on February 17, 2024 at St-Étienne-de-Lauzon Church.



**Our Deepest Condolences
to the
Bereaved Families**

GENEALOGY / THE READERS' PAGE

*The Kirouac family 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 820

What are the names of the parents of David Ash, spouse of Lise Kirouac, daughter of Paul Kirouac and Marguerite Bisson? They were married on 17 March 1990 at Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Question 821

What are the names of the parents of Diane Legal, spouse of François Kirouac, son of Paul Kirouac and Marguerite Bisson? They were married on 14 May 1983 at Sainte-Anne-des-Chênes, Manitoba.

Question 822

What are the names of the parents of Holly Dempsey, spouse of Louis Kirouac, son of Paul Kirouac and Marguerite Bisson? They were married on 17 July 1982 at Whytewold (north of Winnipeg), Manitoba, Canada.

Question 823

What are the names of the parents of Gerry Lepage, spouse of Simone Kirouac, daughter of Rosaire Kirouac and Denise Lebrun? Simone died on 24 September 2003 at Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Question 824

What is the name of the wife of Marcel Kirouac, son of Émile Kirouac and Denise Gougeon? What is the name of the parents of Marcel's wife?

Question 826

What are the names of the parents of Lorne Bacon, spouse of Alice Kirouac, daughter of Lionel Kirouac and Angéline Garneau?

Question 827

What are the names of the parents of Bernard Couture, spouse of Rose Kirouac, daughter of Lionel Kirouac and Gertrude Paillé?

Question 828

What are the names of the parents of Gayle Desjarlais, spouse of Denis Kirouac, son of Lionel Kirouac and Gertrude Paillé? They were married on 15 March 2011 at Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Question 829

What are the names of the parents of Angèle Lagacé, spouse of Roger Kirouac, son of Lionel Kirouac and Gertrude Paillé?

Question 830

What are the names of the parents of Angéline Garneau, second spouse of Lionel Kirouac? Angéline Garneau died on 4 September 2019 at Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Question 831

What are the names of the parents of Barbara Rock, spouse of Jeffrey Kerouac, son of Edward Kerouac and Betty Griffin? They were married on 9 January 1976 at Nashua, New Hampshire.

Question 832

What is the name of the mother of Richard Murphy, spouse of Sandra Kerouac, daughter of Robert Kerouac and Helen Wilson? They were married on 9 March 1960 at Merrimack, New Hampshire.

Question 833

What is the name of the mother of James Leblanc, spouse of Roberta Kerouac, daughter of Robert Kerouac and Helen Wilson? They were married on 18 March 1973 at Merrimack, New Hampshire.

Question 834

What is the name of the mother of Helen Wilson, spouse of Robert Kerouac, son of Ludger Kerouac and Dorilda Roy? They were married on 20 July 1936 at Lowell, Massachusetts.

Question 835

What are the names of the parents of Richard Pitzl, spouse of Holly Kerouac, daughter of Paul Kerouac and Kathryn Kulas? They were married on 4 September 1981 at Hudson, New Hampshire.

Question 836

What are the names of the parents of Kristine Siebert, spouse of Paul Kerouac (junior), son of Paul Kerouac and Kathryn Kulas? They were married on 13 June 1981 at Hudson, New Hampshire.

Question 837

What are the names of the parents of Yvonne Oakes, second spouse of Paul Kerouac, son of Armand Kerouac and Alva Travers? They were married on 7 July 1979 at Nashua, New Hampshire.

Question 838

What are the names of the parents of Kathryn Kulas, first spouse of Paul Kerouac, son of Armand Kerouac and Alva Travers? They were married on 6 July 1957 at Nashua, New Hampshire.

*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

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Our Motto

Pride Dignity Integrity



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Kirouac Family Gathering

Royal Canadian Military College at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu

7 September 2024

See *Preliminary Program* on page 4

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