

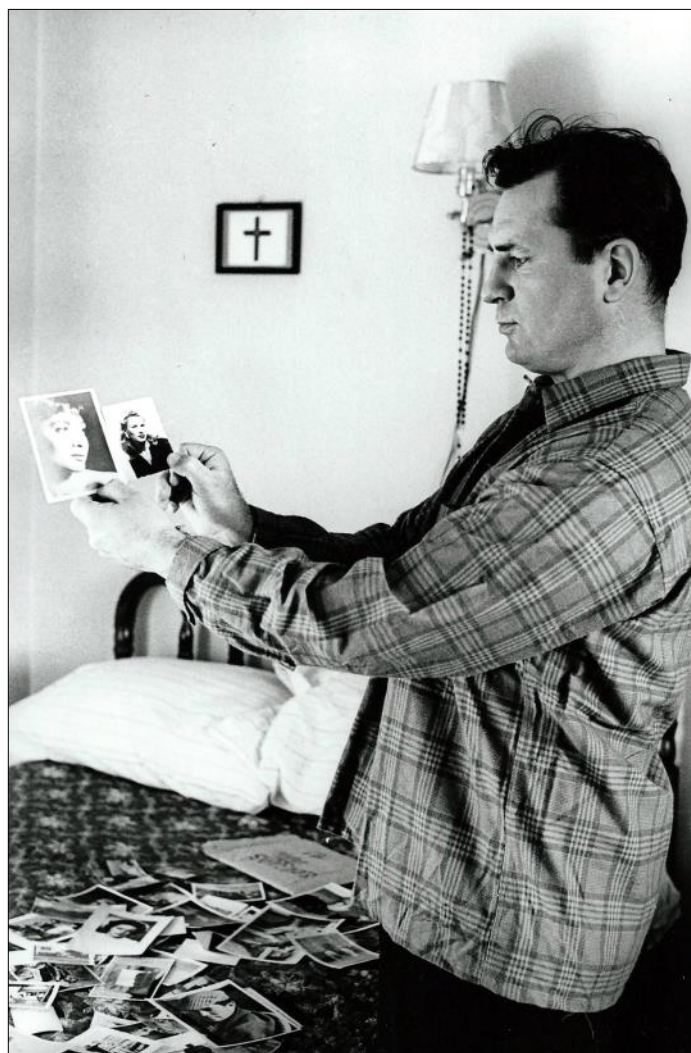
Spring 2022

Number 138

Le Trésor des Kirouac

Bulletin of the descendants of Alexandre de K/voach

Witness to Kirouac Activities since 1983



*100th anniversary
of the birth of a great
Franco-American author,
Jack Kerouac*

*In this Edition:
Family Memories and More*

Jack Kerouac in his bedroom at Northport, Long Island, in 1964.
Photo: © Jerry Bauer; courtesy of Gerald Nicosia)



Kirouac
Kirouack



Kérouac
Kérouack



Keroac
Keroack



Kéroack
Kyrouac



Breton
Burton



Curwack
Curwick



Le Trésor des Kirouac

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Publisher

L'Association des familles Kirouac inc.
3782, Chemin Saint-Louis, Québec (Québec) Canada G1W 1T5

Legal Deposit, 2nd Quarter 2022

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec
National Library of Canada

Printing

French Edition: 105 copies; English Edition: 55 copies

ISSN 0833-1685

Subscription Rates:

Canada: \$22; USA: \$22 US ; Overseas: \$30 Canadian

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The President's Word

On 2 April 2022, when members were all present for a Board meeting for the first time in over two years, it was decided that this coming summer, for the first time in three years, there would be a KFA gathering including the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The last one was in Shawinigan in July 2019. At long last, it will be possible to meet in person, catch up on all the news and enjoy time together.

For the first time this year, Quebec City is hosting the spectacular MOSAÏCULTURES, so it seems right to invite all KFA members and friends to visit the *Vieille Capitale*, on Saturday, 13 August. As usual, the AGM will take place in the morning followed by lunch in a nice restaurant. In the afternoon, those who wish to do so can visit the famous Mosaïcultures at the park of Bois-de-Coulonge.* The detailed programme for our August KFA gathering will be sent out ASAP by *Trésor Express* and will be on the KFA website.

One important subject discussed on 2 April was the KFA website. Following some serious problems a few months ago, our website disappeared for a whole month. The problem was solved by our retired webmaster, Réjean Brassard. However, unable to find another webmaster, we decided to hire a professional firm.

The KFA website is our Family Association's open window to the world or, let's say, it is the virtual door that anyone can open to find out the results of our genealogical research about family members in

general and some branches in particular, as well as following the KFA activities. It is vital that we keep it alive. Of course, there was no such thing as "computer" and "internet" in 1978 when the KFA was founded. It has also greatly evolved and is very precious. After having invested so much effort in our website, that we are enriching regularly, we must keep upgrading it and make it even easier to access.

Thus, we hired a professional computer firm to provide us with a safe local server and to modernize our website according to the latest standards and methods! From now on we will even be able to do the day-to-day upkeep ourselves. The total cost includes special training for the Board members who will do the day-to-day upkeep; also, the firm will be available to help us whenever a problem arises demanding computer knowledge we do not possess.

The work should take about a month and our present website will remain available during that time. As soon as our new website is operational, we will let you know through a *Trésor Express*.

KFA ARCHIVES - In the previous *Trésor*, I said we would give you a general outline of our policy to safeguard our K/ archives. This winter's latest severe restrictions due to Omicron made it impossible to meet to discuss the subject. However, things being almost back to normal, at the upcoming AGM on 13 August, we intend to tell you about it because we believe it is important to hear from you about what should happen to our archives



Photo: François Kirouac collection

François Kirouac

in the future, among other things: what to keep and where to keep all.

Let me say how much I hope that we will have a wonderful gathering in Quebec City this summer. Until then, be careful and keep safe. Looking forward very much to meeting you all again soon!



*Thanks to the internet, you can now discover the extraordinary MOSAÏCULTURES, read the history of these incredible green displays created in Montreal in 1999. They are in Quebec City for the first time this year. The Bois-de-Coulonge Park's history is available online and well worth discovering.

1922 - 12 March - 2022

100th Anniversary of Jack Kerouac's Birth

Various events around the world

Jack Kerouac, the Franco-American author, was born in 1922, one hundred years ago. Hence, 2022 marks his 100th anniversary. Many towns, cities, organizations and individuals are celebrating with various events, including Gerald Nicosia who has just released his new enriched CENTENNIAL edition of MEMORY BABE. Here, we list some events for the benefit of the readers of Le Trésor des Kirouac.

- ◇ Exceptionally this year, the town of Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup, in collaboration with UQAR film and video department, on their Facebook page, put a short video entitled *Festival vues dans la tête, 2022*, about Jack Kerouac's visit in 1967, in the town where his father was born. The video is available on the town's website.
- ◇ Saint-Hubert will affix a commemorative plaque at the house where Jack's father, Leo, was born. The town's municipal library is creating a special Kerouac area where his works, in English and French, will be available; and the KFA has contributed about two dozen books either written by Jack or about Jack.
- ◇ Radio-Canada, French Canadian broadcasting network, updated its pages on Jack Kerouac where various programmes about Jack are available on line including large excerpts from *Le sel de la semaine*, Fernand Seguin's TV interview of Jack on 7 March 1967.
- ◇ The *Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques* (North-American Francophone Center) with the Quebec Delegation at Boston, held a panel entitled *Jack Kerouac, 100, still alive!*, on 15 March 2022, during the 2022 Francophonie Month. Among the invited guests were Herménégilde Chiasson, film producer, who made a fictitious documentary in 1987 entitled *Le Grand Jack*; Ms. Susan Pinette, from the University of Maine, and Jean-Christophe Cloutier from the University of Pennsylvania.
- ◇ At Huelgoat, Brittany, the café-bookshop *Sur la route* presented a month-long exhibition about Jack Kerouac, and every Saturday in March, there was a special event when Kristian Braz presented his Breton translation of Jack's key novel, and *On the Road* became *War en hent* in Breton. Genealogist Patricia Dagier answered the fans' questions and autographed her book on Jack. On the last Saturday in March, members of a book club gathered to read extracts from Jack's works.
- ◇ The Breton brewery, *An Alarc'h*, in the village of La Feuillée, on the Morlaix-Carhaix main road, on Saturday, 26 March launched a short-lived beer called *for the road* especially in honour of Jack Kerouac. Also to mark the day, street-artist Guy Denning created a fresco of Jack on the brewery door.
- ◇ France-Culture broadcasted three radio programmes *SUR LA PISTE DE KEROUAC*, produced in France, and are available online on their website.
- ◇ In North America, The Lowell Kerouac committee has planned events for the whole year, starting on 12 March, Jack's birth date. An exhibition entitled *Visions of Kerouac* is located at Lowell National Historical Park–Boott Cotton Mills Gallery where the famous roll of *On The Road* is exhibited as well as many never published photos of Jack. In October 2022, the festival *Lowell Celebrates Kerouac*, will take place like every year.
- ◇ A Jack Kerouac Foundation is in the works in Lowell. Unpublished works by Jack and by authors inspired by Jack will be published this year.
- ◇ In Colorado, in March, at Wesley Chapel at the University of Colorado were held two special public events to celebrate Jack's centennial.
- ◇ In Florida, on 4 March 2022, the *Tampa Bay Times* published a long article pointing out that St. Petersburg loves to remember that the Beat Generation writer lived in the Sunshine City, and that Kerouac is always celebrated there.
- ◇ At San Francisco, California, the Beat Museum, at 540 Broadway, had an open-door day on 12 March 2022 to celebrate Kerouac, including reading of Jack's works, music, and an exhibition of never-seen before mementoes of the Pope of the Beat.

War en hent

100th Anniversary of Jack Kerouac, Famous Franco-American Author

by François Kirouac

*This article was first published in the April edition of **Nouvelles de chez nous**, the monthly bulletin of the FAFQ, Federation of Quebec Family Associations.*

This year, 2022, marks the Centennial of the birth of the Franco-American author, Jack Kerouac (1922-1969). Called the pope of the **Beat Generation**¹ and one of the most influential authors of the 20th century, On Jack's mother's side, Gabrielle Lévesque was a distant cousin of René Lévesque, a former Quebec Premier also born in 1922. Jack was baptized Catholic, Jean Louis Kirouac on 12 March 1922. At the time the family lived at 9 Lupine Road in Lowell, an industrial town in the northeast of Massachusetts known for its cotton mills. He is the third child of Léo-Alcide Kerouac (1889-1946) and Gabrielle Lévesque (1895-1973). His older brother, Francis Gérard, born in 1916, died in 1926, and his sister Caroline, born in 1918, died in 1964.

Léo-Alcide Kerouac, was born in 1889 at Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup, in the province of Quebec and baptized Joseph Alcide Léon Kirouack. Later in the United States he changed

the spelling of his name for Kerouac. His wife, Gabrielle Lévesque, by chance, was also born in Quebec, when her parents, travelled from Nashua, New Hampshire, to spend the Christmas holiday with their relatives in Saint-Pacôme. They had to stay longer than planned when the mother gave birth to twin girls, one died a few months later but Gabrielle, grew to become Jack's mother.

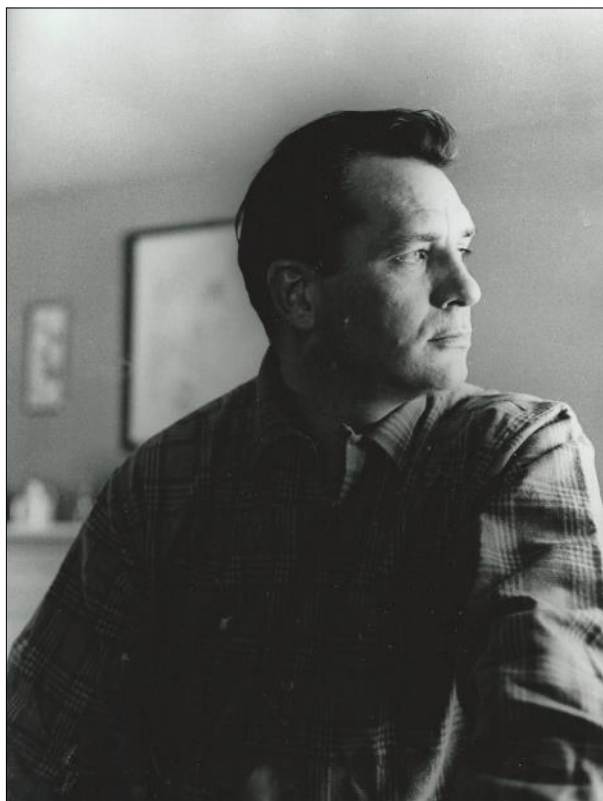
The history of this American branch of our Kirouac family starts in 1890, when Jean-Baptiste Kirouac (1848-1906), Jack's paternal grandfather, and his wife, Clémentine Bernier (1849-1908), emigrated to the USA because, as for so many people then, it was the only way to find paid work to support their families. Between 1850 and 1930, close to a million Quebec inhabitants, i.e. French-Canadians, emigrated to the USA. Jean-Baptiste left Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup to go to work as a carpenter in Nashua, New Hampshire. The family had been living in Saint-Hubert for only five years, since 1885. Originally from Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, the family lived at Rivière-du-Loup, Saint-Antonin, Varennes, Saint-Mathieu-de-Beloeil and Châteauguay before landing at Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup in 1885, until 1890. Jack Kerouac always felt greatly attached for that part of the world even if his father had lived there only four seasons, from his birth to his first birthday. For Jack his family origin were deeply rooted in Quebec soil.

Jack never knew his Kirouac grandparents, but his father instilled in him real love and respect for his forebears. It is clear when reading Jack's books that he was fascinated by his Quebec and Breton roots. So much so, that he liberally embroidered the life of Alexandre de Kervoach, believing, like everyone else at the time, that this ancestor belonged to a noble Breton family. I like to surmise that if our Association had been founded in the 1960s instead of the end of the '70s, Jack would likely have become a member just like his daughter, Janet, did in the '80s and '90s.

We know that in 1965, Jack went to Brittany in search of his noble Breton ancestor. As a result of that trip, he wrote **Satori in Paris**, one of many novels. Our association was founded to celebrate the 250th anniversary, in 1980, of our ancestor's arrival in New France. Serious research started afterwards and eventually it was proven that this was a historical mistake based on stories, not facts, and that our ancestor's social status was different. He was not a member of the nobility, but a notary, and the son of a notary². Our Breton ancestor left two sons, hence two family branches ensued, that of Jack and that of Brother Marie-Victorin.

¹ *Literary and artistic movement in the Fifties that shocked puritan and conformist America (Eric Waddell, Le Trésor des Kirouac, number 127, Summer 2018, page 53).*

² *See the fascinating and enlightening updated genealogical research published in 2019 on the KFA website at: http://kirouacfamilies.com/jack_kerouac/documents/Jack%20Kerouac%20Breton%20Ancestor.pdf*



Jack Kerouac, Northport, New York, 1964
(Photo by Jerry Bauer, courtesy of Gerald Nicosia)

Jack's Studies

Jack completed elementary and high school in Lowell. Until the age of six, he only spoke French. Later in life, he was known to speak Lowell French, i.e., including English words, a mixed-up vocabulary with errors and hesitations³, the kind of French sometimes today called *joual* (this being *cheval* badly pronounced). Here is how a Franco-American explained Jack's French: You know, when we speak French in the States, words spring to mind in two languages. And if we can't catch the French one, we use the English one⁴. To find out what Jack's French sounded like, listen to him when interviewed by Fernand Séguin at *Sel de la semaine*, the Radio-Canada TV programme aired on 7 March 1967⁵. What you hear gives a very good idea of how a French-Canadian, growing up in New-England surrounded by English-speaking people, spoke then.

In 1939, Jack started a university preparatory course at famed Horace Mann School in New York. He was accepted at Columbia University for the 1940-1941 school year. But in the autumn of 1941, instead of starting his second year, he abandoned his studies. That was the beginning of his new life wandering on the roads in America to feed his literary production. In some ways, his work is autobiographical⁶. Some people call him the American Rimbaud, Jack initiated a new way of writing novels using spontaneous prose.

He wrote over twenty novels, poetry, and many articles were published in various American newspapers and magazines. Kerouac is now part of literary programmes in many colleges and universities on five continents. He greatly influenced his generation and is recognized as one of the twentieth century's most influential American authors. Many biographies were written about him in French and English but the most complete is, without any doubt, *MEMORY BABE* by Gerald Nicosia, first published in 1983⁷; followed by an excellent French edition in 1994⁸. Now, a new revised and enriched English edition is out in honour of Jack's centennial.

Jack, the one we hate to love and love to hate!⁹

Jack's life was far from exemplary. Addicted to alcohol, he died a broken man, penniless and rejected even by some of his own relatives. Jacques Kirouac, founding president of the *Kirouac Family Association*, asked if his personal life had somewhat obscured his literary works; could his works be less accepted because of his lifestyle.

It seems this is no longer the case particularly during this year of Jack's centennial, when he is the subject of radio programmes, literary panels, unveiling of plaques and many other activities around the world. A new special centennial edition of *On The Road*, his main novel, is available. Jack's opus seems to have taken over the author's life.

Career and Family

Jack was married three times but every union was less than successful. First he married Frankie Edith (Edie) Parker on 22 August 1944, only to leave her two months later. Then he married Joan Haverty. *Joan met Jack Kerouac in New York; a young twenty-eight-year-old author, whose first novel, The Town and the City, published in 1950, had been a commercial failure. Kerouac's friends were all getting married and he felt at a loss and, penniless, still lived with his mother. Jack married Joan just three weeks after meeting her, on 17 November 1950, and six weeks later, Joan was expecting.*¹⁰ This second marriage lasted hardly longer than the first one; after six months they were living apart. Joan became the mother of Jack's

one and only child, his daughter, Janet Michelle (Jan), who will eventually follow in her father's footsteps, becoming a writer.

Finally in 1966, Jack married his third wife, Stella Sampas, the sister of a childhood friend killed in Europe during WWII. After Jack's death in 1969, Stella took care of his mother, Gabrielle Lévesque-Kerouac, until her death, in 1973.

*As a father, Jack was no model whatsoever. The reality is that the literary genius sacrificed everything and everyone for his career, with serious consequences; however, this is not the kind of things that one remembers about an artist, musician or writer. One remembers his works or his production, whether painting, music or words.*¹¹

³ *Conversations with Roger Brunelle, Le Trésor des Kirouac*, Winter 2013-2014, number, page 8.

⁴ *Ibid*

⁵ <https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1354541/jack-kerouac-ecrivain-route-beat-generation-archives>
Listen also to Jack in 1959: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xePzjd7_JGE

⁶ *Conversation with Roger Brunelle, Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 113, Winter 2013-2014, page 7.

⁷ Gerry Nicosia is perhaps the only one who interviewed at length members of Jack's immediate family when researching to write Jack's biography, entitled *MEMORY BABE*, after the nickname given to Jack as a child.

⁸ French translation by Marcel Deschamps and Élisabeth Vonarburg, published by Éditions Québec-Amérique, Montréal, 1994. A few copies are still available only from the Kirouac Family Association.

⁹ From a talk entitled *Jack Kerouac, le mal-aimé* given by Michel Bornais, KFA secretary 2002-2012.

¹⁰ Gerald Nicosia, *Biography of Jan Kerouac, Le Trésor des Kirouac*, Special Edition 9, page 3:
<http://kirouacfamilies.com/genealogie/Hors%20serie%209%20Jan%20Kerouac%20english.pdf>

¹¹ *Conversation with Roger Brunelle, Le Trésor des Kirouac*, Winter 2013-2014, number 113, page 5.

**Janet (Jan) Michele Kerouac,
Jack's only daughter**

Jan Kerouac,¹² [the author's daughter] was born on 16 February 1952 at Albany, New York. Her mother, Joan Haverty, was a young seamstress who had fled to New York City only a few months earlier to escape her harsh and demanding mother¹³.

An absent father combined with her mother's bohemian lifestyle, certainly greatly and permanently influenced her life and the decisions she made along the way. Jan grew up in many different places—upstate New York, rural Missouri after her mother briefly remarried, and, most notably, in the tenements of the Lower East Side in New York City. For the most part, she grew up in dire poverty, with her mother on welfare. Her mother lived what was known then as a “bohemian” life—lots of art and poetry, lots of lovers, lots of adventures, and little or no time for her children. Jan was a waif of the streets. By the time she was 13, she had tried heroin and briefly worked as a prostitute. Jan was growing up in the tumultuous 1960s, when promiscuous sex and lots of drugs, such as marijuana and LSD, were everywhere in her neighborhood. She was in and out of youth homes and juvenile detention facilities. Pregnant at 15, she ran off to Mexico with a neighbor named John Lash, an occultist and would-be writer who was almost ten years her senior and had already traveled the world.¹⁴

Like her father, she became a writer. She published two books and a third one was mostly written by the time she died. Jan was invited to literary conferences around the world, and always spoke of her love for her father, and how sorry she was that he was not capable of being a devoted father to her¹⁵. Jan only met her father twice but nevertheless had good memories of him. In a letter to Jacques Kirouac in 1995, one year before she died, she wrote clearly:



Jan Kerouac (1952-1996), daughter of Jack Kerouac and Joan Haverty
(Photo courtesy of Gerald Nicosia)

I love my father, I work on my book and suffer endlessly with health problems¹⁶.

In December 1988, it was a pleasure and a privilege for the board members of the Kirouac Family Association to meet Jan in Quebec City and share a meal at a restaurant. Everyone present noticed how nice she was; her kindness was not only towards her “new family”, as she often used to say to Jacques Kirouac. Later on, many people he met confirmed this.

Jan died at Albuquerque, New-Mexico, on 5 June 1996, from kidney failure. She was interred at Nashua, New Hampshire, on 5 June 1997, in the family plot next to her grandparents, Léo-Alcide Kerouac and Gabrielle Lévesque-Kerouac.

Death of Jack Kerouac

Jack Kerouac died on 21 October 1969 at St. Petersburg, Florida, at the age of 47 from internal bleeding caused by excessive drinking. He was buried in Edson Cemetery in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the Sampas Family plot, his third wife's family. Few people attended his funeral held at Saint-Jean-Baptiste Church in Lowell.

¹² For more about Jack's daughter, see the KFA website at:
<https://kirouacfamilies.com/genealogie/JanKerouac.html>

¹³ Gerald Nicosia, *Biography of Jan Kerouac, Le Trésor des Kirouac, Special Edition*, number 9, page 3.

¹⁴ *Ibid*

¹⁵ *Ibid*, page 4.

¹⁶ *Ibid*, page 13.

Centennial celebrations

The *Jack Kerouac Foundation* recently bought the disused *Saint-Jean-Baptiste Church* in Lowell to open a museum, art centre and theatre to commemorate Jack's centennial¹⁷, the same church where the young Jack was an altar boy. On 12 March 2022, there were radio broadcasts, newspaper articles in Montréal and Quebec, at Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup, at Huelgoat in Brittany, where the Kirouac ancestor was born; at Lowell, Massachusetts, St. Petersburg, Florida, Boulder, Colorado, San Francisco, California, to mention only a few. Other commemorations are also planned worldwide through 2022.

The Kirouac Family Association and Jack

Our family association is proud to include this famous writer among the descendants of our common ancestor, Alexandre de Kervoach.

The Kirouac Family includes another first-class writer, Brother Marie-Victorin, born Conrad Kirouac (1885-1944). Best known as a botanist, the first French-speaking scientist in Canada, first dean of Montreal University's

Department of Sciences; among many achievements, he founded the Montreal Botanical Garden, etc. He was a remarkable scientific and poetic writer. Our Breton ancestor left two sons, Jack is a descendant of the eldest, and Conrad, Brother Marie-Victorin, of the youngest.

For three decades, our Association has been proud to contribute to getting Jack Kerouac's genealogy and history better known. Indeed, our research has enabled us to demystify our Breton ancestor which so fascinated Jack.

In 2018, Radio-Canada (French-speaking Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) produced a radio series about Jack. The KFA had the privilege to take part in the episode about the Lower-Saint-Lawrence region where two houses were identified, one as the house where Jack's father was born and the other, where his mother was born.

Further to our research, journalist Gabriel Anctil¹⁸ published an article in *Le Devoir* (Montreal daily) providing the information about Jack's last trip in the Province of Quebec in 1967. Another direct result of our research will be in this

centennial year, Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup will place a commemorative plaque on the monument standing in front of the house where Jack's father was born.

Before closing, I would like to invite the readers interested in the Franco-American author, Jack Kerouac, to check tab: **Key Figures** on our **KFA Website**. That tab will open to you a large quantity of impressive information about the author and his family. You will also be able to enjoy a virtual visit of places where Jack and his family lived in Nashua and Lowell.¹⁹

The KFA takes pride in contributing to getting Jack and his family better known.

François Kirouac,
KFA president

¹⁷ Stéphane Baillargeon, in *Montreal French daily, Le Devoir*, 10 March 2022.

¹⁸ *Le Devoir*, 31 December 2020, French article about Jack's last visit to Quebec.

¹⁹ http://kirouacfamilies.com/jack_kerouac/JackKerouac.html



Jack Kerouac in Coney Island, New York, 1953.
(Photo by John Kingland. Courtesy of Gerald Nicosia)

PAUL BLAKE, JR. (1948-2018) Remembering his uncle Jack (1922-1969)

When Paul junior was born in Durham, North Carolina, on 10 June 1948, his uncle Jack was 26, living on the road and writing a lot. Junior was the son of Paul Blake (1922-1972) and Caroline Kerouac (1918-1964), Jack's sister. Junior's first memory of his uncle was when Jack visited them at Rocky Mount in North Carolina. A precious photo was taken there when he was very young and the darling blond boy of his grandma. Later in life, he remembered that Jack stayed with them on and off for about ten years and that he slept on the back porch.

Junior never knew his grandfather, Leo Kerouac, who died before the birth of his grandson. But his Mémère Gabrielle was very special to him. He remembered a good grandmother, very attentive who liked to spoil him every chance she had. The growing boy loved her cooking. His favorite dishes were old Quebec favorites like *creton*, the pork spread they put on their toast at breakfast. At Christmas time, she made *tourtiere*, another traditional holiday treat, a pork pie.

Junior remembers that his Uncle Jack was good at choosing Christmas presents for everyone and really appreciated the Mark Twain novels his uncle Jack bought for him. Mémère liked having Uncle Jack around and was always so happy whenever he visited. However, she did not care for Jack's friends, many were rather off-the-wall. She was old-fashioned and liked the idea of a closely-knit family. Jack used to say that his mother was the model mother.

The family moved to Orlando and lived on Alfred Drive. In 1957, Nin convinced her mother and Jack to move to Orlando too. Junior thinks that it is because she wanted to have them nearby. So Jack and Mémère moved two houses away from theirs on the same street. Paul remembers that by then his



Little Paul Blake, Jr. II, with his mother, Caroline Kerouac-Blake, his grandma Gabrielle, and his uncle Jack, in Rocky Mount, North Carolina around 1955.

(Photo courtesy of Jon Collins)

On the Road



Former Broadway Stars in the WAC show, "Uniform of the Day", to be given Friday night at Edison Hall, are Pvt. Lon McAllister and Pfc. Caroline Kerouac, circa 1944. (Gerald Nicosia collection)

uncle Jack was busier than when he visited them in North Carolina. Eventually, it occurred to him that 1957 was the year that *On the Road* was published. Nonetheless, but there was still time for uncle and nephew to play basketball together at the local park, and Junior loved that.

Something else happened while they were living in Orlando. Paul's father was so often away for business that his mother decided to learn to drive a car and got her driving permit, but Uncle Jack never did. One of Paul's most pleasant memories has to do with car and a memorable cruise. Paul told the story: *My father owned a British sports car, an Austin Healey Bug-Eyed Sprite. When Mémère and Uncle Jack lived near us on Alfred Drive, dad would leave the car parked in their yard. That way, it would look like someone was home and perhaps discourage a burglary. It was sometime before my mother died that Uncle Jack came to visit us in Orlando and I decided to drive the Austin Healey. I wasn't supposed to have the key to it, but I found it somehow and Uncle Jack and I went cruising around Kingswood Manor. It's probably my very best memory of being with him.*

Junior was only fourteen when his mother died. Nin had never complained about any health problems so it was a great shock when she suddenly died of a coronary occlusion. By then they had moved to an apartment building

across from the golf course. Junior was alone when it happened as his father was away traveling on business. Junior found his mother dead on the sofa in the living room. Not knowing what to do, he called a friend and his mother to come over. Later, his dad phoned Jack and Memere in St. Petersburg where they had moved by then. Of course, they came to Orlando to the funeral. Paul remembers that Uncle Jack took his sister's death very hard, and so did Memere Gabrielle, who had already lost one child, Gerard, who died so young.

About his uncle Jack's death, Paul says: *Over the years, Uncle Jack always kept in touch with me, an occasional letter or postcard, even after I had grown up and was stationed in Alaska during my stint in the Air Force. Uncle Jack and Mémère believed strongly in family, especially Mémère, given her strong French-Canadian background. I was still in Alaska when my uncle's last letter arrived on October 20, 1969.*

In that letter written only days before he died, Jack wrote: *'We are the same blood and we are also good buddies and have had an association that went back to when you were one year old. . . I love you. I am lonely. I would like to see you because it makes me renew the instincts I had with your mom.'*

Two days later, I heard on the radio that he had died. I was heart-broken and always wished I had gotten the sad news some other way.

Paul had fond memories of his Uncle Jack: *He was such a funny guy with a great sense of humor. We had a lot of good times together. I remember once, when I was a teenager, he told me, "Always have a room of your own, Paul. It's a special place." I was very proud of him, and he seemed fond of me. Jack was a big part of his nephew's life until the very end and his nephew always remembered.*

The Life and Death of Paul Blake, Jr.

by Gerald Nicosia

Paul Blake, Jr., was the kind of man I couldn't help but like. He was close to my age (he was born the year before me), and he was a carpenter, like my grandfather. When I met him in 1978, I was hard at work researching my biography of Jack Kerouac, *Memory Babe*, and I was often having quite a hard time. It was not just that I was very poor back then, but a lot of the people I wanted to interview would rebuff me or make lots of conditions before they would talk to me. The Sampases, who were in control of Jack's legacy, were extremely cagey with me, careful not to talk too much or show me too much of what I wanted to see, such as Jack's manuscripts and notebooks. So when I showed up on Paul Blake's doorstep, in Redlands, California, I could hardly believe the reception he gave me.

I had gotten Paul's address from Doris Kerouac, the widow of Jack Kerouac's cousin Harvey, and that was the only introduction I had, other than my hurried explanation that I was writing a biography of Paul's Uncle Jack. Paul immediately welcomed me into what was clearly a poor man's home.

I believe there were four little children running around. Tammy was Paul's second wife, and he explained that three of them were her children from an earlier marriage, and the youngest, Paul Blake III, who was only two, was his only child with Tammy. Yet he'd taken on the responsibility of caring for all of them, and it was clear he really



Paul Blake, Jr., and Gerald Nicosia, at Jack Kerouac Alley, next to City Lights Bookstore, San Francisco, April 1995. (Photo: Linda Johnson)

loved them all, regardless of whether he was their biological father. His relationship with Tammy seemed equally loving.

I was hungry, and they made me sandwiches, coffee, and offered me dessert. Then Paul pulled out his treasure-trove of letters from Jack and Mémère. Later, we went to a local supermarket, where Paul let me Xerox his letters on one of those dime-a-copy Xerox machines. The story Paul told me was an exceedingly sad one. From the start, it was clear how much he loved his French-Canadian family: his mother, his grandmother, and his Uncle Jack. His eyes sparkled and his face broke into frequent grins when he told me stories about living with them. He told me how Mémère had talked to him in French, and he sang me some of the French ditties she had taught him while sitting at their old piano. And he just glowed when he talked about his Uncle Jack's athletic prowess. Jack was 26 years older than him, but he told me that Jack could still beat him at basketball and fifty-yard foot-races when Paul was twelve and Jack was close to forty. Jack had taught him the importance of excelling at athletics, and given him heroes to emulate, like the great Native American athlete Jim Thorpe.

Paul Jr.'s story was tragic because he had been cut off completely from his French-Canadian family. Twenty-one years old, he was serving in the Alaska Air National Guard when he heard on the radio that his Uncle Jack had died. A year or so later, when he was released from the military, he went to Florida to take charge of his grandmother, Gabrielle. But Stella would not allow him to take the old woman, who was paralyzed, claiming that she was Gabrielle's caretaker. She then chased Paul off and threatened to call the police.

After returning to Alaska, Paul Jr. wrote to his grandmother and sent her small checks for a few years. Stella did not tell Paul when his grandmother died in October, 1973; in fact, Stella continued to cash the checks Paul sent for over a year, leading Paul to think that Gabrielle was still alive.

Only at Christmas, 1974, when Paul demanded that Stella put his grandmother on the phone, did Stella let him know that Gabrielle had died. When Paul asked what had become of her legacy, which included all of Jack Kerouac's properties, Stella said, "She left everything to me." We know now, of course, that the will of Gabrielle Kerouac that the Sampases filed was a forgery.

Paul Jr. was a good man, who by the accounts of many people would "give you the shirt off his back," and he was always ready to help anyone in need. I experienced that kindness and helpfulness myself. He was almost always cheerful and rarely showed anger. Moreover, his son, Paul III, said, "He was a great dad--a hands-on dad. He loved to do things with us when we were kids--always finding activities to keep us happy and interested." But Paul Jr. had a lot of darkness in his past. His dad, Paul Blake, had left young



Ti Nin (Caroline Kerouac) and her mother, Gabrielle Lévesque (*Mémère*), in New York around 1944. Caroline wears her WAC (Women Army Corps) uniform.

(Photo courtesy of Paul Blake, Jr)

Paul's mother Caroline for another woman when Paul Jr. was about fourteen. A good Catholic, Caroline could not accept the fact that her husband was divorcing her, and she all but stopped eating, going down to eighty pounds. Eventually she died of a heart attack; and Paul Jr., only sixteen, found her dead on the sofa when he came home from high school--a trauma he could never completely get over. Although Paul tried to put the loss of his family out of his mind, things kept reminding him. I fear that my visit to his home, and my asking him to talk into my tape recorder about his family for several hours, might have brought all that trauma back to the surface. He began to drink heavily, and by 1981 he was having dissociative episodes. He talked about seeing his "mother's bones," and was tormented by memories of his lost family members. Tammy had to put Paul into the hospital for a couple of weeks. When he came out, he seemed clear-

headed again, but Tammy told him she was filing for divorce.

I tried to keep in touch with Paul Jr., but it was hard. He wandered around a lot, at one point prospecting for gold in Alaska, at another point living with his paternal grandmother in Coats, North Carolina. By the time Jan Kerouac filed her lawsuit against the Sampases for forging Gabrielle's will, in May 1994, Paul Jr. had completely disappeared. Jan's lawyer finally tracked him down after Tammy gave us his Social Security number. It turned out Paul was working on a ranch in Elverta, California. He had moved in with a divorcée named Linda Johnson and was helping her raise her several children, just as he had done with Tammy.

I drove out to Elverta from my home near San Francisco, about 100 miles away. Paul was really happy to see me and welcomed me warmly into his home, just as he had the first time I met him. As soon as he heard about Jan's lawsuit to reclaim her father's literary estate, Paul announced that he wanted to join the lawsuit too. He made it very clear to me that he was not at all interested in any money that might accrue from Jack Kerouac's literary properties; but rather, like Jan, Paul wanted to protect those properties, specifically Jack's papers and manuscripts, by preserving them in a library archive, rather than allow the Sampas family to continue to sell them off to collectors and dealers.

During the first couple of years of the lawsuit, Paul participated in several public events and press conferences with Jan, in order to publicize the cause of saving Jack's papers. He and Jan got along very well, and in fact became quite close. When Paul's carpentry tools were stolen, Jan spent a couple of thousand dollars to buy him a new set of tools. Above all, it seemed to me, they were both so glad in their hearts to have found in each other a new close connection to the Kerouac family. Jan's death in June 1996 was a heavy blow to Paul. He started drinking heavily again, and Linda Johnson threw him out. When Jan's heirs, her ex-husband and half-brother, in cahoots with the Sampases, tried to dismiss Jan's lawsuit in the fall of 1996, Judge Thomas Penick in Florida refused to allow the suit to be ended without the consent of Gabrielle Kerouac's other grandchild, Paul Blake, Jr. But once again, no one could find Paul; he was lost to the world again. But Judge Penick was determined to preserve Paul's rights, even *in absentia*. The judge



Jan Kerouac and her cousin, Paul Blake, Jr., at the home of Gerald Nicosia, in Corte Madera, California, April 1995. (Photo: Gerald Nicosia)

appointed noted Tampa attorney Bill Wagner to represent Paul's interests; and Wagner, wisely, refused to consent to the dismissal of the forgery lawsuit.

These were the years, 1996-1999, when I was fighting in New Mexico, as Jan's literary executor, to keep Jan's lawsuit alive and to try to finally bring it to trial. Jan's heirs, backed by the Sampases, finally got a ruling in September 1999 to remove me as Jan's executor; and once again, they tried to dismiss Jan's lawsuit in Florida. Fortunately, Paul Blake, Jr., had been located a few months before I lost my position as executor; he was in jail in Kansas for three months, on a charge of vagrancy. When he got out of jail, he was helped by a farm family in Riverton, Kansas; and soon Bill Wagner helped him to come to Tampa, so that they could meet in person. Paul affirmed that he wanted to carry on Jan's legal case as long as the court would allow him to do so.

Paul was now the substitute plaintiff in Jan's case, but he had no money and no home. All he had was his old pickup truck. When he heard that two members of the

Kansas farm family were opening a junkyard and used-merchandise store called the Trading Post in Sacramento, Paul drove there in his truck and asked if he could work for them. Like his father, he had a gift for fixing broken mechanical items, from bicycles to washing machines, and making them saleable again. The owners hired him, but said they had no money to pay him. In exchange for his services, they let him park his truck in their junkyard, and they gave him a small amount of food and cigarettes every day. The truck soon broke down, would not start any more; but Paul kept it there as his home.

For a full three years, 2000-2003, Paul lived out of his broken truck in that Sacramento junkyard, working for the Kansas family. He essentially lived without money that whole time. He would eat his meals inside the Trading Post and washed up at the gas station across the street. He slept in a sleeping bag in the front seat of his truck. Sacramento is quite cold in the winter, often dipping below freezing, and the dead truck could provide no heat. Meantime, Bill Wagner was fighting in Florida to finally get a trial for Paul's grandmother's forged will, but the Sampases used every legal trick in the book to stall, to keep the case from going to trial. I visited Paul several times during these years and was amazed at the strength of character that kept him going. He wore a heavy parka against the winter cold and had a long beard like a mountain man, but his spirit was always bright, and he never lost hope that someday he would win back his lawful heritage. In early 2003, I joined with some writers in Sacramento to organize a benefit poetry reading for Paul, which he attended and spoke at.



Paul Blake, Jr., in Sacramento, California, on the front porch of the second-hand store where he worked and lived from 2000 to 2003. Washing machines and dryers he repaired for resale. (Photo: Gerald Nicosia)

Like his uncle, Paul loved poetry and loved the company of writers, and he had a great time that night.

To increase the money he would earn from the benefit, Paul and I worked together in the month beforehand to create a booklet that he could sign and sell there; it was called "**Why I will Fight and Win the Kerouac Lawsuit.**" Paul had no means of writing in the truck, but he would call me and I would take down his words, then read them back to him to make sure I had them right. As I listened to him talk about saving his Uncle Jack's literary papers, I could hear the powerful emotion in his voice. It was clear to me how important family was to him, and how proud he was to be a Kerouac, related to one of the greatest American writers of the twentieth century. One would have thought a homeless man would be focused on how much money he could make from such a lawsuit, but for Paul the clear focus was family. Like Jan, Paul saw the lawsuit against the Sampases as a means of preserving the honor of his family. I was also struck by the great dissonance between his apparently hopeless physical situation and his own immense hopefulness, his firm belief that he was going to win.

The case was supposed to go to trial in October 2004, but the Sampases again pulled one of their legal tricks to derail it. They got themselves removed from the case by pointing out a Florida statute of limitations, which stated that inheritances could not be undone, *under any circumstances* (even crime or fraud), once the inheritors had been in possession of their inherited property for more than two years. Thus the Sampas brothers and sisters, who had received Jack Kerouac's properties from Stella upon her death in February 1990, would never have to return them--whether or not Gabrielle Kerouac's will was invalidated. The Sampases then moved again to

dismiss the whole lawsuit, stating that, as things now stood, Paul Blake, Jr., was in the position *of suing no one*.

To Bill Wagner's great credit, he kept the case alive by having Judge George Greer appoint an *administrator ad litem*, a lawyer named Elaine McGinnis, to represent Gabrielle's will. By Paul suing Ms. McGinnis he could in effect still determine the validity of his grandmother's will. Ms. McGinnis was appointed in January 2007, but it took her more than a year to get up to speed on the case, which finally went to trial in April 2009--when, as is now widely known, Gabrielle's will was pronounced a complete fake by Judge Greer.

After the first aborted trial in 2004, Paul Blake, Jr., had five more years to wait for the real trial, and he could no longer live in the junkyard. It was some time in 2005 that Paul Jr.'s son, Paul Blake III, who had married and was living in Kingston, Arizona, offered to take in his father. Paul III was then close to thirty. He and his family, which included two tiny children, were living in a trailer, but they made room for "Grampa," now close to sixty. Eventually they were able to rent a small house for Paul Jr. across the street from their trailer, and Paul Jr. would live the rest of his life in Kingston, Arizona, until his death in December 2018.

Though he still had no money, these were some of Paul Blake, Jr.'s happiest years, living among and being cared for by his own loving family. Paul III, now in his mid forties, recently spoke about what it was like to have his father with him for a decade and a half. Paul III said that Big Paul, as they called him, was initially very happy and optimistic that--despite the statute of limitations--they would eventually prove Gabrielle's will a forgery and that they would receive their fair share of the Kerouac Estate. He told his son that someday they would be able to buy their own big house, a boat to fish in, and other things to make their lives easier. It was really important to Big Paul, his son said, that the Kerouac properties would finally get back to their proper ownership, and that Jack's papers would end up preserved for posterity in a library. It had also hurt Big Paul that he and his son had been kept out of Kerouac events, conferences, and celebrations; and he greatly looked forward to the day when they would be allowed to participate in events celebrating his Uncle Jack.

After the initial victory, the case then went on to appeal, which took almost another two-and-a-half years. The final appellate decision came on July 24, 2011, where the judgment that Gabrielle's will was a forgery was put into the permanent record. During these long years, Paul Jr.'s health declined, despite the best care his son could give him. He had smoked all his life, and he now suffered from emphysema as well as the start of various heart problems. As the lawyers dickered endlessly, Paul Jr. began to regret that he had put



Paul Blake III, great-grandson of Gabrielle Lévesque and Léo-Alcide Kerouac, attending a Beat Generation conference at New York University in May 1994, proudly wearing a Kirouac Family Association blue and white badge. (Photo: Gerald Nicosia)

his family's legacy in lawyers' hands, but he told his son he had had no other choice. He had no other way of fighting what the Sampases had done to him. It eventually became clear to Paul Jr. that the lawyers were not going to get him and his family anything from his Uncle's estate. That was the point, says Paul III, when his father had his biggest letdown.

Paul Jr.'s lawyers talked about finding a way around the statute of limitations, but nothing was ever done. Partly this may be because Paul was still unable to pay them, and the lawyers had now worked for over ten years and been able to earn nothing from the Kerouac Estate. During these years, the Blakes had to watch while the Sampases earned increasing amounts of money from the Kerouac Estate, continuing to sell Kerouac's personal items and papers by auction as well to publish new manuscripts from Jack's own files, to market movie rights and merchandising rights, and so forth.

A week ago, when I had a long phone conversation with Paul Blake III, the Sampases had just posted their long schedule of events to mark the Kerouac Centennial. The Blakes were not mentioned, nor was Jan Kerouac (nor was I). Once again, Jack's real family was being kept out of a major Kerouac celebration--the one-hundred-year mark since the writer's birth. Of course, the Sampases did not fail to publish a new Centennial edition of *On the Road*, to make even more money from Jack Kerouac's estate--money the Blakes will not see a penny of. Paul III's voice grew intense and anxious as he told me that his father just could not understand why such things were allowed to happen.

"I don't know why they do these things," Paul Jr. told his son. "They already have so much money." Regarding how the statute of limitations was used against his family, Paul Jr. said, "It's just not right. We were robbed, everyone knows it, and yet no one is doing anything about it. We're not even allowed to participate in our family history. It's not fair; and even if the letter of the law stands against us, on a moral level this should never have happened. The powers that be should have made it right."

Paul Jr. was referring to the big, wealthy players in this drama, like the Sterling Lord Agency, Viking Penguin Publishers, and others who make huge sums of money year after year off the Jack Kerouac Estate. *"These people know very well that Jack Kerouac was a family man,"* Paul Jr. said. *"They know very well that Jack Kerouac would never have accepted seeing his family cut*

out of everything. They also knew how Jack felt about the Sampas family--he felt they were using him, and he wanted to divorce Stella. Just out of decency, these people should have made sure that Jack's real family was taken care of."

Paul III told me that his father "could never get his head around" how his family was mistreated. He said that Paul Jr. grew more and more frustrated to see the Sampases continuing to sell off pieces of his Uncle Jack's archive, while he had to sit back, powerless, and watch while they did whatever they wanted with it. Paul III told me he felt the stress from his father's helplessness, in the face of such abuse, may have contributed to the severe stroke Paul Jr. suffered about ten months before his death.

Because of the stroke, Paul Jr. lost the complete use of one arm, could no longer walk, and had great difficulty speaking. But rather than complain about his own lot, Paul Jr. told his son, *"I'm sorry I won't be*

able to keep fighting to get back what they took from us. I won't be able to help you any more."

The hardest thing for Paul III, he told me, was having to watch his dad finally accept defeat. It broke the son's heart. *"My dad had to go to his grave knowing we weren't ever going to get our rightful inheritance,"* Paul III said. *"He went to his grave a broken man."*

But the battle is not over. Paul Blake, Jr., left behind a family dedicated to keeping his memory and his cause alive. In his mid forties, Paul Blake III, already a heart attack survivor, has successfully raised his own son and daughter to the brink of adulthood. They are proudly the descendants of Jack Kerouac's beloved sister "Ti Nin." Paul III's chief goals are to spend the remainder of his life speaking out about the history and values of his family, and, above all, *"to get the Kerouac properties back to their proper ownership."*



Paul Blake Jr. and Gerald Nicosia (Photo: Gerald Nicosia collection)

Why I Will Fight and Win The Kerouac Lawsuit

© 2003 by Paul Blake Jr

I was fortunate to have a very special relationship with one of the greatest writers of the twentieth century, Jack Kerouac. He was more of a friend than an uncle. We were real close. As I was growing up we did a lot of things together. We hiked, read and made -up poems together, shot baskets, raced against each other, and talked endlessly about football. He told me that Jim Thorpe was the greatest football player who ever lived, and he reminded me that Jim Thorpe was part French and part Indian, just as we Kerouacs were. A lot of times, I'd be talking to him as he'd be writing away. He was writing all the time. He was



Jack Kerouac in Italy in 1966
(Photo: Gerald Nicosia collection)

incredibly devoted to his writing, and he was one of the hardest workers I've ever met.

One of the most important reasons I'm carrying on Jan Kerouac's lawsuit is that I'd like all his papers to be put back together again, all in the same library. His most important manuscripts, such as *On the Road* and *The Dharma Bums*, have been sold to private collectors – along with a lot of his notebooks, letters, and paintings. I'd like to undo those sales if I am legally able to. This great man's literary works and everything else that meant something to him should be properly preserved in a library, so that everyone could enjoy and learn from them – not just a chosen few.

As I was growing up, I felt a lot of love from both Jack and my grandmother, Memere. They really cared about me. And I know in my heart that my grandmother would not have cut me out of her will – if she was of sound mind. This fight that I'm carrying on is important because I have seen her alleged will, and it's not my grandmother's signature. I know it's a forgery. I can't believe that Stella would have done something like that, but somebody forged that will.

I'm carrying on this lawsuit for Jack and my whole family. We were a loving family and we always took care of each other.



Paul Blake Junior (1948-2018)
(Photo: Paul Blake III collection)

I remember one little story that tells so much about Jack's love for me and the way he would never let a family member down.

It happened when they were living on Shady Lane in Orlando, and I was visiting. I was about ten years old, and I used to climb in their tree out front. My dad was an electrician who'd make little gadgets for me. And I'd bring them over to Jack's house to play with them. I had this little radio that had no antenna, and I had to hook it to the metal fence to bring the signal in and listen to programs. That day I asked Jack to come outside and listen to the radio with me, but he was working real hard, as usual.

He told me he had some writing to finish and he couldn't be bothered too much that day. He had to stay inside and type. And I kept pleading with him, "Aw, Jack, please come out and play with me."

This may sound kind of corny. But he looked at me and said, "Well, Ti Paul, I'll think hard enough and you just hook it on the fence out there and you'll be able to hear me. If you get lonesome, you can hear my thoughts."

I was nine or ten years old, and his trick did work. I went back outside, and I played over there all afternoon with the radio and the fence. I didn't feel bored or lonely anymore. I kept trying to see if I could hear his thoughts. I didn't hear them, but I tried. He took the trouble to create a special game for me because he loved me so much – because he also had been alone as a kid, and he'd learned how important games could be, how they could keep you from feeling bad.

And the truth is, I do hear his thoughts now. And they're telling me to keep on doing what I'm doing, because my family is with me every bit as much today as they were when they were all alive.

In pursuing this fight, I want to show the same kind of love to Jack that he showed to me that day in Orlando.



Press conference at the Gramercy Park Hotel at which Jan announced her lawsuit against the Sampas family, New York City, May 17, 1994. From left: Gerald Nicosia, Paul Blake III, Jan Kerouac, Jan's attorney, Thomas Brill. (Photographer unknown)

Press Review of the
**Centennial Edition of
MEMORY BABE**
by Rick Dale¹

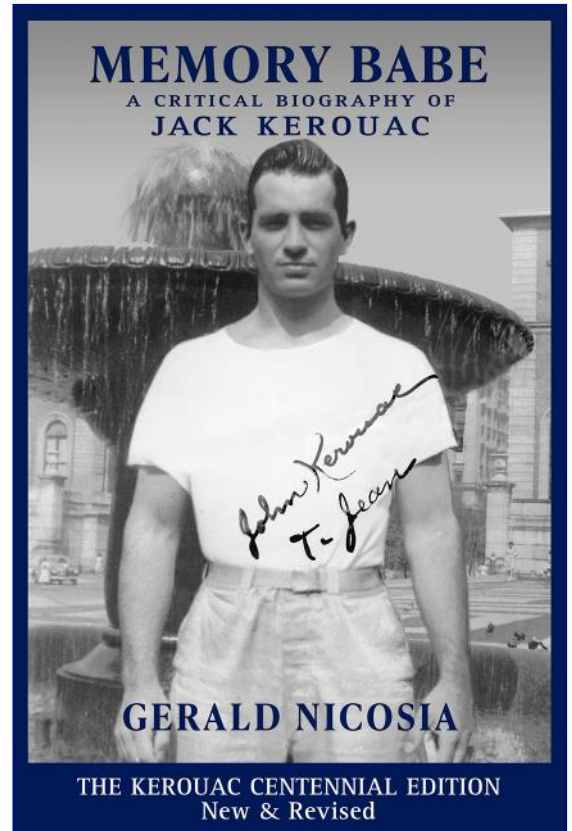
Gerald Nicosia's *Memory Babe: A Critical Biography of Jack Kerouac* was first published by Grove Press, Inc. in 1983, making it one of the earliest Kerouac biographies and earning the author the Distinguished Young Writer award from the National Society of Arts and Letters while still a work-in-progress. After Grove put it out of print, Penguin published it from 1985-1992. University of California Press published it in 1994 but put it out of print in 2001. That is the version I have turned to for in-depth Kerouac biographical details over the years as attested to by the rough shape my copy is in, not to mention the many annotations and Post-It flags adorning it.

For a number of reasons, not the least of which is the blacklisting of Nicosia by the Sampas family in Lowell, MA, keepers of the Kerouac estate, *Memory Babe* has now been out of print for over 20 years! It is a delight to see it being published by Noodlebrain Press in time for the 100-year anniversary of Kerouac's birth in 1922.

A Centennial Edition of Memory Babe: A Critical Biography of Jack Kerouac is due to be published September 6. New and revised, this edition maintains the substance of Nicosia's critically acclaimed work, but includes additional material and corrections, including over 110 photos, many of which are new.

There is an introduction to the new edition by R.B. Morris in which he itemizes some of the new material, including updated information about Kerouac's ancestry, "more firsthand knowledge regarding his death" (p. 20), new details on the famous Six Gallery reading in San Francisco in 1955, and updates about the recent discovery of Neal Cassady's long-lost *Joan Anderson Letter*.

One of the distinguishing features of *Memory Babe*, in addition to its detailed and deep insights into Kerouac's life, has always been Nicosia's foray into a literary analysis of Kerouac's major works, including, *Mexico City Blues*,



¹Rick Dale, author of *The Beat Handbook: 100 Days of Kerouactions* and editor of *The Daily Beat* lives in Augusta, Maine. To read his blog, go to: <https://thedailybeatblog.blogspot.com/>

2 Editor's note: R. B. Morris, author, singer-songwriter, first poet laureate of Knoxville, Tennessee, his hometown where he still lives with his wife and daughter.



Gerry Nicosia leaning on the completed manuscript of *MEMORY BABE*, Autumn 1981. (Photo: Chris Felver)

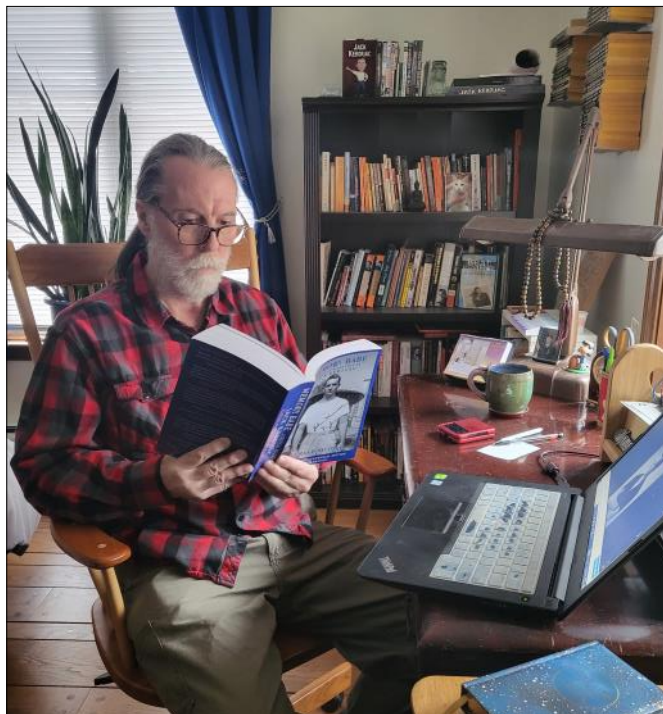
Visions of Cody, and *Doctor Sax*, among others. I can't stress enough how much more a reader can glean from Kerouac's works by using *Memory Babe* as a companion reading guide.

The Centennial Edition includes the author's preface to the 1994 edition, but also includes a completely new 16-page prelude in which Nicosia provides a critique of the general state of Kerouac scholarship as well as background on his work being blacklisted by Kerouac estate executor John Sampas.

In this section Nicosia gives his opinions on the value of several posthumously published Kerouac works, including *Some of the Dharma* and *Book of Sketches*. It is in this same section where we find detailed background information on the *Joan Anderson Letter*. The prelude concludes with advice for where the critical study of Kerouac needs to go in the future.

The valuable information in this prelude alone is worth the cost of the book.

Nicosia has worked hard to bring *Memory Babe* (Jack's nickname among childhood peers because of his prodigious memory) back into print, and he succeeded in not only making the content of the previous editions available again, but also in bringing forth new information that has come to light over the



Rich Dale reading his autographed copy of *MEMORY BABE* the Centennial edition. (Photo courtesy of Rich Dale)

years. Kudos to Mr. Nicosia for making it possible for Kerouac scholars and fans to once again access the definitive Kerouac biography.

Advance copies are available now by contacting the author at gnicosia@earthlink.net.

IN PRAISE OF JACK KEROUAC IN THE BLEAK INHUMAN LONELINESS

Excerpts from Leon Horton's interview with Gerald Nicosia
From *International Times*, *The Magazine of Resistance*

Your biography *Memory Babe* has been out of print for 20 years but thankfully an expanded centennial edition will be released in July. Described by William Burroughs as “by far the best of the many books published about Jack’s life and work,” *Memory Babe* earned the Distinguished Young Writer Award from the National Society of Arts and Letters when it was first published in 1983 – a truly incredible yet much deserved accolade. How long did the original take to research and write?

Six years. Two years researching – 50,000 miles and 300 interviews – two years writing – and two years wrestling with publishers to see it done correctly.

What can we expect from the new edition?

A lot of new materials about different areas of his life, a lot of new photos. I deal with the discovery of the *Joan Anderson Letter*, the truths we have learned about his ancestry, his last years, and his estate, and a lot more.

You once described yourself as “raised poor – an Italian Catholic outsider in my own way”. When you were researching Jack’s working-class childhood in Lowell, Massachusetts, did you find yourself relating to your own background in Chicago?

Yes, I identified with Jack in many different ways. One shrink thought there might have been too much “transference” going on; but another shrink said the positive

transference pushed the biography into interesting areas where it otherwise might not have gone.

Did your view of Jack change during the research and writing? Assuming you had any – I promise you, I’m not – did you find you had to rethink your own presumptions and prejudices as you unearthed more material about Jack’s life?

I knew from the start that he was a self-destructive alcoholic, but I found that he was far more deeply troubled, psychologically disturbed, than I had ever imagined. He had real troubles relating as a human being among other human beings, and certainly as a man relating to women. Art, writing, was a safe haven for him from the real world, and that was one of the reasons he poured so much energy into it. I started out admiring him enormously, but in the end felt really sorry for him, for the enormous pain he endured just living from day to day.

Jack’s friendship with Neal Cassady has been well documented through his writing and in numerous essays and biographies. I think it is fairly well known – something, correct me if I’m wrong, that Jack himself complained about – that people often confused him with freewheeling Cassady (or his alter ego Dean Moriarty in *On the Road*). Was that part of the reason their relationship waned?

No, their relationship waned because they were really very different sorts of men. They were tied together by women they both loved, like Luanne Henderson and Carolyn Cassady. I talk about this in my earlier book *One and Only*. Cassady was a man who was always out to have a good time, he was an incredibly physical man, and Kerouac was most comfortable when he was living in his head. The real world scared him in a lot of ways. The way Cassady tore recklessly through the real world fascinated Jack on an intellectual level, but when Jack had to live it with him it scared the hell out of him.

It was the booze, of course, which destroyed him in the end, not helped by his overbearing mother Gabrielle. I don’t think we should seek to make excuses for his alcoholism – it is what it is – but do you think it was exacerbated by his family?

His sister and cousins can’t be faulted for thinking he should have gotten a regular job and supported himself. But his mother was enormously controlling of him, didn’t want to let him go. At the same time, she put unreasonable expectations on him, wanted him to be the “saint” that had been lost when her other son Gerard had died. The pressure from his mother was certainly part of his becoming an alcoholic; but as I said earlier, he had a very hard time dealing with the pressures and experiences of ordinary life. The fact of death, which he experienced very young, was always hugely traumatic for him.



Caroline Kerouac and Jack Kerouac, Lowell, Massachusetts, about 1940. (Photo: George Poirier)

Since we are on the subject of families, we must talk about the Sampas family, Jack’s final family, as it were, through his marriage to Stella Sampas. I’ve read some terrible things: the forged Will, their attempts to blackball you, selling Jack’s belongings piecemeal to private collectors – I even heard they sold his underwear, for Christ’s sake. Is there anything you would like to say about them?

They have done an enormous disservice to Kerouac, selling off his papers to collectors, censoring scholarship of him, aiming all their efforts at making his work produce the maximum profit. I don’t want to spend more hours here talking about that. I have written about it at length in my recent book *Kerouac: The Last Quarter Century*.

In an interview you gave to *Beatdom* in 2021, I was shocked to read about the appalling treatment meted out to Jan Kerouac – not just by the Sampas family but, much to my disgust, by Allen Ginsberg of all people, who had her forcibly removed from a New York University conference on her father. What the hell was going on there?

At the end of his life, Ginsberg wanted major recognition – even a Presidential Gold Medal. He had to work with the Sampases to see certain of his projects fulfilled, like the publication of his letters with Kerouac. He told Jan to “stop rocking the boat,” but the boat he was talking about was his career. Jan was fighting for her own life, and for the fate of her father’s literary legacy. Ginsberg’s supposed “compassion” was often a crock of shit – excuse me for calling it as I see it.

Finally, and I appreciate how broad a question this is, but what do you think is Kerouac’s lasting legacy to literature? Will we be celebrating him in another 100 years?

Absolutely. Kerouac was one of the handful of literary pioneers who took the helm of world literature and steered it into postmodernism, the examination of the mind’s role in creating reality, the vast exploration of subjectivity that is the current state of literature. While minutely recording the details of his own life and world, he was at the same time always looking at how his mind was perceiving and really creating that life and that world. That stuff was hugely revolutionary, though we now know, through the discovery of *The Joan Anderson Letter*, that Neal Cassady had given Kerouac a big kick in that direction.

Source:

Gerald Nicosia: *In Praise of Jack Kerouac in the Bleak Inhuman Loneliness*, by **Leon Horton***

<https://internationaltimes.it/gerald-nicosia-in-praise-of-jack-kerouac-in-the-bleak-inhuman-loneliness/>

*Leon Horton, is a writer, interviewer, editor, and member of the European Beat Studies Network, published by *Beatdom Books*, *Beat Scene*, *International Times*, *Newington Blue Press* and *Empty Mirror*. His essays include *Where Marble Stood and Fell: Gregory Corso in Greece* and *The Beaten Generation: Burroughs, Ginsberg, Thompson... and the Battle of Chicago*. He is currently working on a project with the renowned biographer and punk historian Victor Bockris.

COLETTE KEROUAC, PROUD COUSIN OF JACK

From notes collected by Marie Lussier Timperley

Cousin Jack rarely visited us and always unannounced. When he suddenly turned up from nowhere either my father or my mother would call out: *Jack's here! We immediately dropped whatever we were doing and ran to greet him. My parents always called him Ti-Jean but we children never did, he was always Jack to us.*

1950

Like Jack, Colette was born in Lowell but in 1950, when Jack, born in 1922, was 28. Jack was first cousin to Colette's father, Harvey Kerouac. Harvey and his wife, Doris Boisvert-Kerouac, lived at 95 Mount Washington Street, a two-story bungalow. They lived on the ground floor with their children. It was a residential street on a gentle slope and their house was on the upper end. Colette remembers it was perfect for children to slide down in their sled in winter, and in their hot-rod in summer.

1957

The year *On the Road* was published, Colette was only seven, too young to realize what it meant. Only years later she understood how important cousin Jack and his book were. However, at home, people often talked about Jack's adventures but it always seemed rather mysterious. Everyone spoke French at home. One day Colette noticed her cousin's dark brown hair and penetrating blue eyes and thought he was the most handsome man she had ever seen.

After the success of *On the Road*, Jack would visit them more often. He had to ask a friend to drive him because he never learned. Jack loved Mémère Léontine, who was his aunt and not his grandmother. She was the widow of Joe, Leo's brother, but Jack always called her mémère. This was the endearing term used for their grandmother by French-Canadians then living in New England.

Mémère Léontine

Colette's maternal grandmother, Mémère Léontine, lived with her sister, Fleurie, on the second floor at 95 Mount Washington Street. When a visitor rang the doorbell, it was heard everywhere in the house. Jack would climb up to visit Mémère Leontine, usually carrying a paper bag hiding a bottle of booze, not a gift for his aunt. Sometimes, a friend would go up with him. Before leaving the house Jack always stopped to greet Harvey and Doris, his cousins. Quite often Harvey would drive him back to Lowell's town centre in the green Ford. And then Jack would disappear for a few months.

DAD'S 1956 GREEN FORD

Colette's father worked hard for the railroads; her mother was a hairdresser and their front parlor was used as her hair salon. For the kids, a ride in the 1956 green Ford was a great treat. Colette remembers particularly their father taking them to Hampton Beach on a hot July

Sunday afternoon. Jack, who was visiting Mémère Léontine, noticed the preparation, came down and ask Harvey if he could join them. In the car, the parents sat in the front seat, and, in the back, Jack and the three children, Sue the eldest, Colette, and their little brother, Paul. Terry was not born yet. Jack sang traditional French folk songs like *Au claire de la lune*, and the children sang with him at the top of their voices. Suddenly, Jack asked Harvey to stop the car. He had his bottle in a paper bag but he had water with some salt. Or was it something else to get over a hangover? Colette says she never knew but Jack felt better, got back into the car and they all kept singing. Jack made crazy faces to make the children laugh. As soon as the car was parked, the children ran towards the beach, but Jack went the opposite way onto the Boardwalk. Back home, Colette asked her father why cousin Jack had gone walking alone. Her father simply said: *Oh, you know Jack!*

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Thanksgiving dinner was always special but it was even more so when Jack came. *Mémère Léontine and my aunt Fleurie came down to eat with us and we all enjoyed traditional Quebec dishes. Mémère Léontine was so pleased to see Jack. He told funny stories, made jokes and funny faces; we children were laughing so hard, we had a hard time eating. After the meal, while my mother and her mother, Léontine were washing dishes, Jack came down to play with us in the garden. He was very good with us children. He seemed to know what was going on in our hearts and minds. Afterwards, as usual my father drove him back to town in the Green Ford. When dad came back home I asked him where he had dropped Jack: "Near the railroad tracks!" I never found out more.*

JACK'S LAST VISIT

Jack never spoke about books with us but always spoke how important the family was. That is probably why his last visit always remained engraved in my mind because of his request. It was about his mother Gabrielle, my great-aunt, who needed to be cared for. It was sometimes in the Sixties; I do not remember exactly what year but I remember Jack spending nearly all day talking in private with my parents. I could see how sad and worried everyone was, especially Jack. He wanted my mother to look after his mother Gabrielle. My parents were heartbroken to refuse. It was a terribly sad day for us all. Even the hot dogs cooked on the BBQ in the garden for supper did not help lift our morale. As usual, my father drove Jack back downtown in the green Ford. This was Jack's last visit.

WHY REFUSE

At the time, beside working as a hairdresser, Doris, looked after her very ill father Armand Boisvert, who lived with them. She was also caring for Mémère Léontine and Aunt Fleurie who lived in the small apartment above. Another room was rented to a lodger and that also required supervision.

JANET'S VISIT!

One day in 1967, a very beautiful young woman knocked on the door at 95 Mount Washington Street. It was Janet Michelle Kerouac, the daughter that Jack had with Joan Haverty and whom he refused to acknowledge. Jack was living in Lowell with his mother, Gabrielle, and his third wife, Stella Sampas. Colette remembers that her mother phoned Ti-Jean and told him he had to meet his daughter. No one will ever know what arguments she used but he finally accepted to see her. Jan wrote that story. She was a beautiful

fifteen-year-old, a pregnant teenager, with the same wanderlust as her father. She went to see him at his home in Lowell. She told him she was going to Mexico. And Jack told her: "Use my name. Write a book". A few months later, she gave birth to a still-born baby, Jack's only granddaughter.

ADIEU JACK

The Jack I had known and loved was gone; alcohol had destroyed him and finally killed him. Someone called to let us know he had died. I can still see my father, leaving the house without a word, and go for an aimless drive in his green Ford. The last time I saw Jack he was in his coffin wearing a houndstooth jacket, a bow tie and holding a rosary. I vividly remember his funeral at Saint-Jean-Baptiste Church in Lowell, and I noticed how close relatives and old friends were so sad. In October 1969, I was 19 and, decades later, I remember seeing my father, one of the pallbearers, silently crying.

FAMILY ARCHIVES

During her lifetime, Colette's mother, Doris Boisvert-Kerouac, collected and carefully kept lots of newspaper articles about Jack. Colette inherited those precious archives from her mother. Knowing that it would be of interest to the Kirouac Family Association, one day, she invited Jacques Kirouac, the KFA founding president, and myself, to show us her treasures and share her admiration for her second-cousin, Jack. From Montreal, via Quebec City, it was a long drive to Allagash, Maine, in November 2009. We eagerly listened to Colette remembering.

I will never forget Colette's conclusion: *My parents never judged Jack. They always welcomed him as a member of the family; perhaps this is why he trusted them and always came back to visit us.*

*40th Anniversary of the Gathering in Cap-Saint-Ignace
To Commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Marriage
Of Alexandre de Kervoach and Louise Bernier*



GOUVERNEMENT
DU QUÉBEC

Le Premier ministre

2 September 1982

Heartfelt congratulations to the Kirouac and Kér-
ouac families who, today, are rightly and proudly
celebrating the 250th anniversary of the marriage
of their common ancestor.

Your gathering underlines the value and vitality
of one of our great North-American French-speaking
families who came from France to settle along the
shores of the Saint-Lawrence River and now radiate
over the whole continent. I sincerely hope that
your celebration will give much joy and satisfac-
tion to one and all.

Warm greetings to everyone!

René Lévesque

The year 2022 not only marks the 100th birthday of Jack Kerouac, but also that of, his mother Gabrielle's second cousin, René Lévesque, who was Premier of Quebec from 1976 to 1985.

It is also the 40th anniversary of the Kirouac Family Association's annual gathering held at Cap-Saint-Ignace on 5 September 1982.

The Premier's letter (written in French) congratulating those attending the 250th marriage anniversary of our ancestors, Alexandre de Kervoach and Louise Bernier, was read to the 300 people present at the banquet, on Sunday, 5 September.

In his letter of thanks to the Premier, Jacques Kirouac, KFA founding president, wrote that his message was warmly applauded.

The Editor

40th anniversary of the celebration in 1982 at Cap-Saint-Ignace



Photo: Raymond Bergeron

Left, André de la Durantaye, Mayor of Cap-Saint-Ignace, welcoming the participants; and right, Jacques Kirouac, KFA founding president.



Jean-Yves Citté, founding president of TRISKELL, the Montreal based Breton dance group, with Jacques Kirouac. (Photo: Raymond Bergeron)



Photo: Jacques Kirouac

Members of TRISKELL, the Breton dance group. From left to right: Raymond and Christiane Kerfers, Gaël Citté and her father, Jean-Yves Citté.



Photo: Raymond Bergeron

Part of the crowd watching Triskell performing Breton dances during the afternoon, 5 September 1982 in Cap-Saint-Ignace.



During the High Mass in Cap-Saint-Ignace's Parish Church. (Photo: Raymond Bergeron)



Marie Kirouac, daughter of Agésilas Kirouac, talking with Christiane Kerfers, one of the Triskell Breton dance group. (Photo: Raymond Bergeron)

Kirouac and Poitras, a long-lasting love story

by Pierre Poitras, grandson of Antoinette Kirouac

I was born Pierre Poitras at Quebec City in 1949, my paternal grandmother was born Kirouac. As I read *Le Trésor des Kirouac* #137, in December 2021, I noticed the text about Henri Poitras, the well-known comedian particularly famous for his role as *Jambe de bois* (wooden-leg), a partner of *Séraphin* in *Les Belles Histoires des Pays d'en Haut*, i.e., “scrooge” in tales of the Laurentians, or upper country. Suddenly it hit me, the destinies of the Kirouacs and the Poitras families are so closely knit.

My story revolves around my grandfather, Joseph-Onésime Poitras, known as JOP. JOP was born in 1883, he was the son of Onésime Poitras (1857-1896) and Joséphine (also born) Poitras (1860-1900). And, Joséphine Poitras, JOP's mother, was the sister of Georgiana Poitras (1875-1951) who was the second wife of Philippe-Eugène Kirouac [a son of the “patriarch” Chevalier François, and brother of Napoléon, Arthur, Cyrille (father of Conrad, better known as Brother Marie-Victorin, and Adelcie, Mother Marie-de-Anges of the Congregation of Jesus & Marie in Quebec City; and others.).



Pierre Poitras, son of Robert Poitras and Irène Lapointe, grandson of Onésime Poitras and Antoinette Kirouac (GFK 00613). (Photo: Pierre Poitras collection)



The family of Philippe-Eugène Kirouac in 1937. From left to right: Front: Philippe-Eugène and his second wife, Georgianna Poitras. Rear: Lauréat, Georges, Roger, Françoise, Conrad, Antoinette, Olivette, Jean-Charles, Évelynne, Yves and Paul. (Photo: KFA collection)

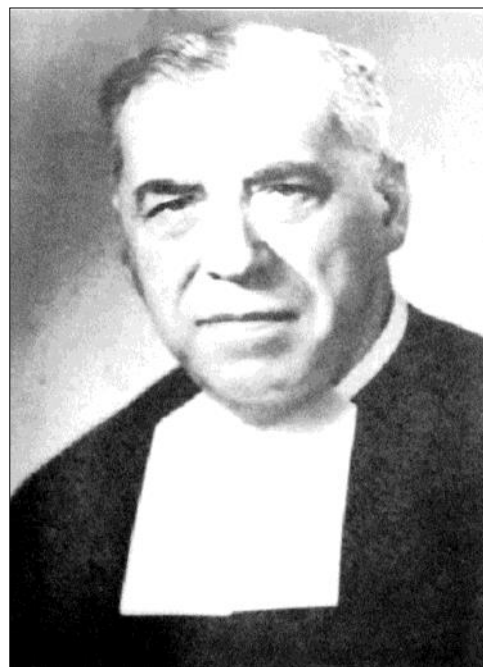
Georgiana Poitras brought up Antoinette Kirouac, my future grandmother, and her brother, Lauréat Poitras, children of Philippe-Eugène Kirouac and his first wife, besides giving birth to nine children herself, three daughters and six boys, who were my uncles and aunts while growing up. In this family tale, one can easily imagine Antoinette Kirouac meeting her JOP under the holly during the large Christmas and New Year celebrations in the Kirouac family!

JOP and Antoinette Kirouac, were married in 1916, and had three children: Madeleine, Thérèse and Robert, my father.

JOP was orphaned young, he was only 13 when his father died and 16 when his mother died. However, he had two younger sisters who later became nuns and one brother, Étienne, who became a religious known under the name of Brother Robert Étienne Poitras, PhD in sciences from the University of Lille (France), was director of Mont Saint-Louis College in Montreal, he also taught mathematics, and created the *Société d'Astronomie de Montréal*¹, he was also the scientific columnist for *La Patrie*² (Montreal newspaper) and Conrad Kirouac, Brother Marie-Victorin (PhD in sciences from University of Montreal, internationally known botanist who founded the *Montreal Botanical Garden*; and a first cousin of Étienne Poitras's sister-in-law, both belonged to the congregation known as *Frères des Écoles Chrétiennes* in Quebec, and *De La Salle Congregation* in the English-speaking world; both were pillars of the scientific development in Quebec during the first part of the 20th century.

JOP seems to be very close to the family of his in-laws. Thanks to Brother Marie-Victorin's diary, we know that on 6 September 1915, with his future father-in-law, (he was married the following year, in 1916) Philippe-Eugène Kirouac, he visited Brother Marie-Victorin, who was teaching at the Collège de Longueuil, and that later he would be an office worker for Napoléon Kirouac (1864-1938)³.

Growing up, to me, JOP was a prosperous businessman, an industrialist as he used to say. He owned a big house (at the corner of Chemin Sainte-Foy and Avenue Louis-Frédette in the Saint-Sacrement district of Quebec City), he always drove the latest new Chrysler, he had business contacts in Montréal, and he was also involved in the community and well respected;



Étienne Poitras,
Brother of Joseph-Onésime Poitras,
called Brother Robert as a religious member of
the De La Salle Brothers (Frères des Écoles
chrétiennes in Quebec)
(Photo: Pierre Poitras collection)

¹ History of the Montreal Astronomical Society is available at: https://faaq.org/bibliotheque/histoire/sam_histoire.pdf

² *La Patrie* is a francophone newspaper published from 1879 to 1978; a daily until 1957 then a weekly paper. It was founded at Montreal by Honoré Beaugrand (1848-1906), writer, journalist and politician, with the collaboration of influential members of the Quebec Liberal party.

³ Son of Chevalier François Kirouac and Julie Hamel. See *Le Trésor des Kirouac, Special Edition*, number 5, Spring 2018 at: <https://kirouacfamilies.com/publications/Chevalier%20Francois%20Kirouac.pdf>



Joseph-Onésime Poitras (JOP) and his grandson, Pierre Poitras,
author of this article, in 1950.
(Photo: Pierre Poitras collection)

he was president of the Saint-Vincent-de-Paul Society⁴ and during the Corpus Christi Celebration in June, the procession often stopped at his residence for a special benediction on the front steps. JOP was president of the Royal Paper Box Co. (the Royal as we used to call it), there was a factory at the corner of Langelier Boulevard and Christophe Colomb Street in the Saint-Sauveur⁵ district, where about a hundred employees made cardboard boxes.

The Royal is where I grew up! It was my world. My father, Robert, and my aunt Thérèse worked there. As a child, I used to go there regularly, fascinated by the giant and noisy machines that cut and folded the cardboard, printed the colours; I am sure you remember the beautiful boxes with the large bright green, yellow, red and black bands of the Hudson Bay Co. Or the special boxes in which one bought the carefully folded shirt with cufflinks bought at the Paquette Company⁶, at Pollack⁷, at Laliberté⁸, at Syndicat de Québec⁹; at Dupuis Frères¹⁰ or Eaton¹¹ in Montreal, or even the boxes made for the famous Vachon cakes¹², *Joe Louis*, and other boxes made for the Viau Co.'s tea cookies: *Petit Beurre*?

The Royal was like a large family. I remember many workers, like Messieurs Vaillancourt, Pépin, Gagné, and Miss Rondeau, and many others. As a teenager, I worked there as a cleaner, and even as a machine operator. I used to dream of becoming a mechanical engineer but that was until I discovered other fields of interest and following into my father's footsteps at the head of the family business.

⁴ Quebec's Saint-Vincent-de-Paul Society is a non-profit charity organization fighting poverty and social exclusion of persons and families in the greater provincial capital region and in the Chaudière-Appalaches region; still going strong after 175 years.

⁵ Now part of Quebec City, this area was an independent village in the 19th century and Chevalier François Kirouac was its mayor during many years.



Wedding of Robert Poitras and Irène Lapointe on 6 July 1948; from left to right : parents of the bridegroom, Antoinette Kirouac and her husband, Joseph-Onésime Poitras, Robert Poitras and Irène Lapointe, and the adoptive parents of the bride, Alphonse Drolet and Eugénie Lapointe. (Photo: Pierre Poitras collection)

⁶ The Compagnie Paquet was the first commercial enterprise in Quebec City, founded in 1850 by Zéphirin Paquet (1818-1905). It was later known as: La Compagnie Paquet Ltée, then La Compagnie Paquet Inc. in 1901, and around 1980, became Paquet-Syndicat Inc. The company sold haberdashery, bedding, linen, millinery, furniture, grocery, hardware, etc. During its long existence, the company was led by four generations of Paquets and Laurins, including Zéphirin Paquet, his son, Joseph-Arthur Paquet, Édouard Laurin (brother-in-law of Conrad K/Marie-Victorin) and his son, Jean-Yves Laurin. (Source: BANQ)

⁷ On a search engine, type in **Magasin le Syndicat de Québec** and a dozen sites will give you history and photos.

⁸ J. B. Laliberté, family clothing store with a famous fur department. Located on Saint-Joseph Street East in Quebec City's St-Roch District in 1867. Closed in 2020.

⁹ The Syndicat de Québec has been part of Quebec City's effervescent retail business district through the twentieth century, in the Saint-Roch area. It was founded in 1886 on Saint-Joseph Street by six Paquet former department managers. It closed in 1981. (Musée McCord à Montréal)

¹⁰ Dupuis Frères, one of the largest Montreal department stores, located on Sainte-Catherine street east in 1868 by Nazeaire Dupuis. In 1978, it went out of business. Dupuis Frères was the symbol of French-Canadian economic success at a time when Montreal's economy was dominated by English-speaking business. (Source: Wikipedia)

¹¹ Eaton was founded in 1869 in Toronto, Ontario, by Timothy Eaton (1834-1907), an Irish immigrant. It was the most important retail chain in Canada. They said that only the Canadian Prime Minister's names was better known. It ended in a bankruptcy in 1999. (Source: Wikipedia)

¹² Founded at Sainte-Marie en Beauce in 1923, this Quebec bakery was owned and run by the Vachon family until 1970, when it was taken over by Desjardins Banking. In 1999 it was sold to Saputo; then in 2014, to Grupo Bimbo. (Sources Wikipedia and Radio-Canada online)

Ancestry of Pierre Poitras

Generation 1

Alexandre de Kervoach
circa 1702-1736

Cap-Saint-Ignace (Quebec)
22 October 1732

Louise Bernier
(1712-1802)
(Jean + Genevieve Caron)

Generation 2

Louis Keroack
dit le Breton
(1735-1779)

Cap-Saint-Ignace (Quebec)
11 January 1757

Catherine Metot
(1739-1813)
(Joseph +
Hélène le Normand dit Jorign)

Generation 3

Pierre Keroack
(1777-1866)

Montmagny (Quebec)
17 October 1797

Marie-Anne Joneas
(1775-1816)
(Charles +
Magdelaine Baillargeon)

Generation 4

Louis-Grégoire Kérouac
(1801- 1890)

St-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud (QC)
10 January 1825

Catherine Picard
(1803-1878)
(Louis +
Françoise Harnois)

Generation 5

François Kirouac
(1826 - 1896)

L'Ancestrerie-Longue (Quebec)
6 June 1848

Marie-Julie Hamel
(1830-1915)
(Joseph + Angélique Morneau)

Generation 6

Philippe-Eugène Kirouac
(1866 - 1948)

Deschambault (Quebec)
1st June 1891

Antoinette Perrault
(1868-1894)
(Olivier + Marie-Anne Nault)

Generation 7

Antoinette Kirouac
(1893- 1975)

Quebec (Quebec)
28 June 1916

Onésime Poitras
(1883-1957)
(Onésime + Joséphine Poitras)

Generation 8

Robert Poitras
(1920 - 2000)

L'Ancestrerie-Longue (Quebec)
6 July 1948

Irène Lapointe
(Émilien + Marie Florida Demers)
(1926-2009)

Generation 9

Pierre Poitras

When JOP died in 1957, my father Robert took over the company's administration. In the middle of the Sixties, the Price Company put pressure on him to merge with another Quebec cardboard company (belonging to the Morency brothers) to become larger thus better equipped to face the increasing competition from Montreal companies, *the Royal* became the *Cartonnerie de Québec*. Unfortunately, that company did not survive the changes and closed its doors in 1968.

What a surprise it was, as I read the Kirouac stories, to learn that, in 1907, Napoléon Kirouac, after leaving the direction of the family business F. Kirouac et Fils¹³ to his brother Cyrille, was, among other things, a founding director of the large Canadian insurance company "Les Prévoyants du Canada", and was also president of the Royal Paper Box!

In the Quebec City land register, I read that in 1908, the Royal Paper Box Co. and its president, Napoléon Kirouac, hired architect Georges-Émile Tanguay (1858-1923) to draw the plans for their new box factory on Langelier Boulevard (in Quebec City). In 1938, when Napoléon Kirouac died, JOP, i.e., J. O. Poitras, his nephew by marriage, became the president of the Royal. And Napoléon's son, Edgar Kirouac, became vice-president, it was his inheritance. I was speechless!

I do remember being very impressed by a Mr. Kirouac at the Royal, about the same age as JOP, who was particularly elegant in every way, and certainly dressed the part. Sitting at a small desk on the side in the common room, often he looked very preoccupied. On the other hand, JOP sat at a very large desk to manage the company. There were also three office employees, including my aunt Thérèse Poitras, the accounting clerk, who was Robert Poitras's sister.

It is surprising to see that at the time, only three or four people were involved administering a factory employing a hundred workers! I remember very well that this Mr. Kirouac lived one or two streets from our own (perhaps on

¹³ This company was in business from 1896 to 1929. Read the story in *Trésor des Kirouac*, Spring 2018, number 126 at: <http://familleskirouac.com/genealogie/Kirouac%20les%20jouets.pdf> (in French).

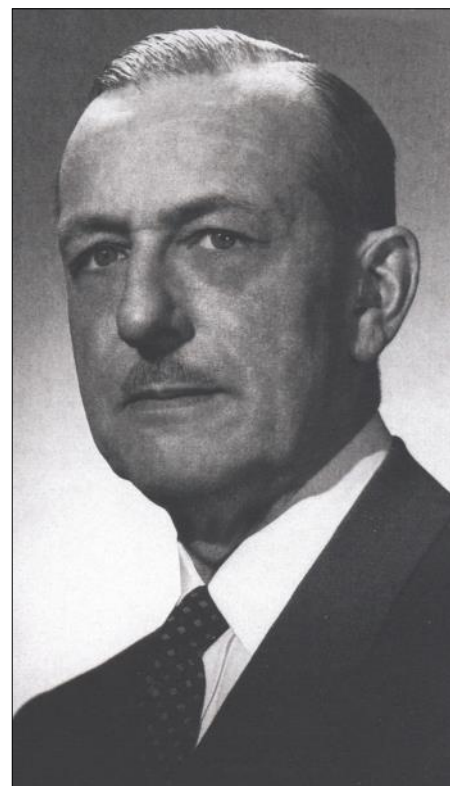


The Royal Paper Box company building in Quebec City when Edgar Kirouac and Joseph-Onésime Poitras ran it. (Photo: Pierre Poitras collection)



Napoléon-Georges Kirouac (1864-1938), son of François, was President of the Royal Paper Box from 1907 to 1938.

(Photo: KFA collection)



Edgar Kirouac (1892-1976), son of Napoléon, Vice-President of the Royal Paper Box from 1938.

(Photo: KFA collection)

Adolphe Routhier Street or Ernest Gagnon Street). Now I know that it would have been Edgar Kirouac, Napoléon Kirouac's son, as he was vice-president and co-owner of the Royal.

About the **Royal Paper Box Co.**, there are many more questions in need of answers:

– In 1908, why did Napoléon Kirouac decide to embark on such a large venture? The building and operating costs, as well as those for machinery and operating were extremely high, besides it was a completely new industry for which

he had no training and was far from the general expertise and interests of the Kirouacs?

– Was the Royal created to support other businesses of the Kirouac empire? Like flours and grains at F. Kirouac & Son (administered by his brother Cyrille K), gifts and dry goods at J. A. Kirouac (owned by his other brother Arthur Kirouac), dry goods sold in his brother Eugène Kirouac's general stores; or at Compagnie Paquette, the large department store owned by Edward Laurin, husband of his niece Eudora Kirouac-Laurin?

How did Napoléon go about garnering the human expertise needed in printing, machinery, etc., to establish and successfully run this relatively specialized heavy industry?

How did JOP become its president? How did he finance his part of the business?

If you have any information that would bring light on these pages of history, please share them with me by writing to me at:

pierre.poitras@gmail.com.

Translated by Marie Lussier Timperley



The Royal Paper Box Co. was built in 1908 at the corner of Langelier and Christophe Colomb Streets in Quebec City. It is now a condominium building. (Photo: Quebec City, 2008)

CALLING ALL FOR HELP

by André Kirouac, son of Conrad and Carmelle Caron

Sometimes, a chance finding creates more questions than answers. This is the reason why I am asking for help from anyone and everyone. Here is the story.

In his book *Croquis Laurentiens*, Brother Marie-Victorin tells the legend of **Rocher Panet** at L'Islet. According to the legend, a girl is possessed by the Devil, the priest Panet exorcised her, but the footsteps of the devil are left on the rock that turned into liquid during the battle between God and the devil.

The botanist had to find a scientific explanation for the phenomenon. Conrad Kirouac, Brother Marie-Victorin, not my father, drove through L'Islet in 1916, sometime in August. He mentioned this in his memoirs and also in one note in his diary as of 3 September 1916.

By this time, Marie-Victorin is well known, he comes from a notable family and his visit to L'Islet does not go unnoticed, particularly because he went for a walk on the beach. Given that Marie-Victorin never learned to drive a car, he mentions that twice his father drove him to L'Islet and that they also went to St-Cyrille-de-Lessard; once he mentions stopping at Bras d'Apic, while travelling on the Transcontinental, thus by train. Unless I am mistaken, in each village there was a general store, Wilfrid owned one in St-Cyrille, and Arthur one in L'Islet. I may be wrong, but it is almost impossible to think that Marie-Victorin would have passed through those villages without calling on his relatives.

This is where I need your help.

Would anyone have heard, or would have information, or even photos of this enigmatic visit by Marie-Victorin in 1916? Please write to me at: andrekirouac@videotron.ca

Even the smallest detail could prove very important. Here is a clue: In the national archives, I found two photos taken in 1941 of Arthur Kirouac's general store/hotel; and please note its rather special name: "Hôtel de Kerouartz".

Why this request/search? In 1919, Marie-Victorin, born Conrad Kirouac, published *Récits Laurentiens* and in 1920, *Croquis Laurentiens*. Born in 1920, my father was baptized Conrad. I think you can understand why a son who never knew his father is curious to find out more.



Photo: Hôtel de Kerouartz, l'Islet; author: Roland Noël, 1941; cote : E6,S7,SS1,P370.
Fonds Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, BAnQ Québec.
Owner: Arthur Kirouac (1882-1957).

Quebec Emigrant Keroack Family Takes the Name Burton in New York State

by Paul R. Keroack

Louis Blais (1801-1870) and Angèle Keroack (1802-1891) emigrated about 1840 from Henryville, Quebec to Essex County, New York, not far south of the Canadian border. Louis Blais and his three adult sons farmed in the town of Lewis.

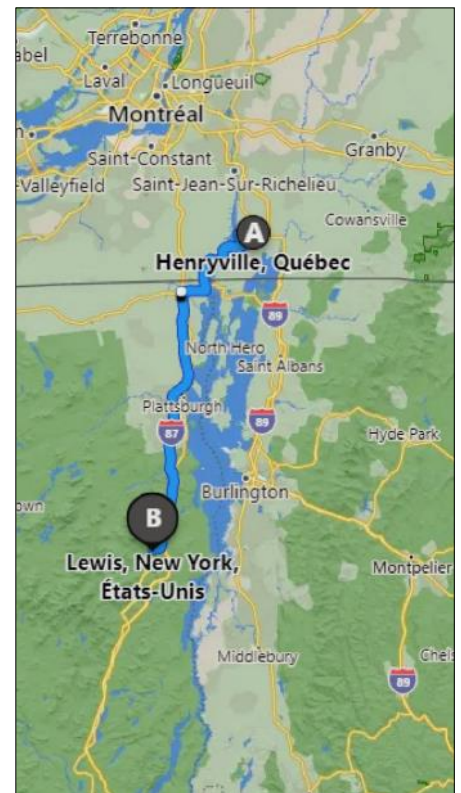
In New York state's 1855 census, living with the Blais family was Antoine Keroack, their nine-year-old grandson, who had been residing with them for two years. Antoine, the third son of Louis-Henri Keroack and Adeline Blais, was born in Henryville, Quebec, 20 March 1846¹. I have used the spelling "Keroack" throughout except when quoting a source or document.

In the 1860 federal census, was listed Lewis Blaw [i.e., Blais], wife Angelus, two Blaw sons, a daughter-in-law, their child and Antoine "Burt," age 14².

At the next state census in 1865, Antoine, 19, was included with the others under the Blais surname, relationship stated as "cousin." Living next door was Antoine's eldest brother Aime -- "Amas Burt" -- with his wife and three children, the youngest one month old. Aime was a laborer, perhaps on the Blais farm, since the elder Blais couple, though living, were retired, eldest son Severe having taken over as head of household³.

At some point between 1855 and 1860, Antoine Keroack had become known as Antoine Burt in public records. Upon his arrival in time for the 1865 census, Antoine's eldest brother Aime Keroack was recorded as Amos Burt.

The Burt/Burton surname is derived from the dit name "Kerouac dit Breton" used by the early generations of Keroacks in Quebec, reflecting the surname's place of origin. As evidenced by the baptism of Aime's son "Amas Jr." that year as Antoine, the Catholic parish in nearby Keeseville recorded the child (and others who followed) as



Distance from Henryville (Quebec) to Lewis, New York: 125 kilometers, or 77.7 miles. (Photo source: Google Maps)

Children of Louis Blais and Angèle Keroack

Louis-Narcisse:	1823-1825
Adeline:	1824-1893
Flavie:	1826-
Sévère:	1827-1888
Léandre:	1831-1910
Louis:	1833-1917
Thimothé-Guillaume:	1837-
Maximilien:	1841-1841

¹ -Ancestry.com. 1855, Lewis, Essex Co., p. 10, household of Louis Blais, line 41. This census asked how many years residents had lived in the state.
-Familysearch.org. Quebec Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979, St-Pierre-du-Sud, M, 11 Feb 1822, Louis Blais to Marie Angelique Kerouac dit Breton, image 210/531;
-Catholic Parish Registers, Henryville, B 14, 22 March 1846, Antoine Keroack, image 598/826.

² Ancestry.com. 1860 U.S. Census, Lewis, Essex Co., p. 139 [stamped 443], household of Louis Blaw, dwelling 1031, family 1032.

³ New York State Census, 1865, Lewis, Essex Co., p. 31, household of Severe Blais, dwelling 174 (frame house), family 176; household of Amas Burt, dwelling 175 (log house), family 177.

Kyrouac⁴. Antoine Kyrouac ((Burt) was married 30 July 1866 to Emilie Poirier, daughter of one of three emigrant Poirier brothers who had married Boisseau and Dupuis women; a daughter in each of these latter families married a Blais son. It was then not surprising that a daughter of Edouard Poirier married Antoine, the nephew of the Blais brothers. Emilie's father Edward Poirier, a cooper, died in May 1860, "in consequence of strangulation," leaving a large family⁵.

Keeseville, NY, was a thriving industrial village striding the Au Sable River dividing Essex and Clinton counties. Small-scale iron smelting and sawmills drew an increasing number of Quebec immigrants to the area⁶.

⁴"Our ancestor was known [in Quebec] as Le Breton by one and all . . . and at least one branch of the family in the United States uses the family name Burton, legacy of our ancestor's Le Breton," in the article, 'Alexandre de Kervoach or Maurice-Louis Le Bris de Kervoach: How about looking at it within the historical context?' by François Kirouac, in *Le Trésor des Kirouac* #123, Spring 2017, p. 5. *St. John the Baptist, 1853-1880*, baptisms Kazavan-Kyrouac, p. 108.

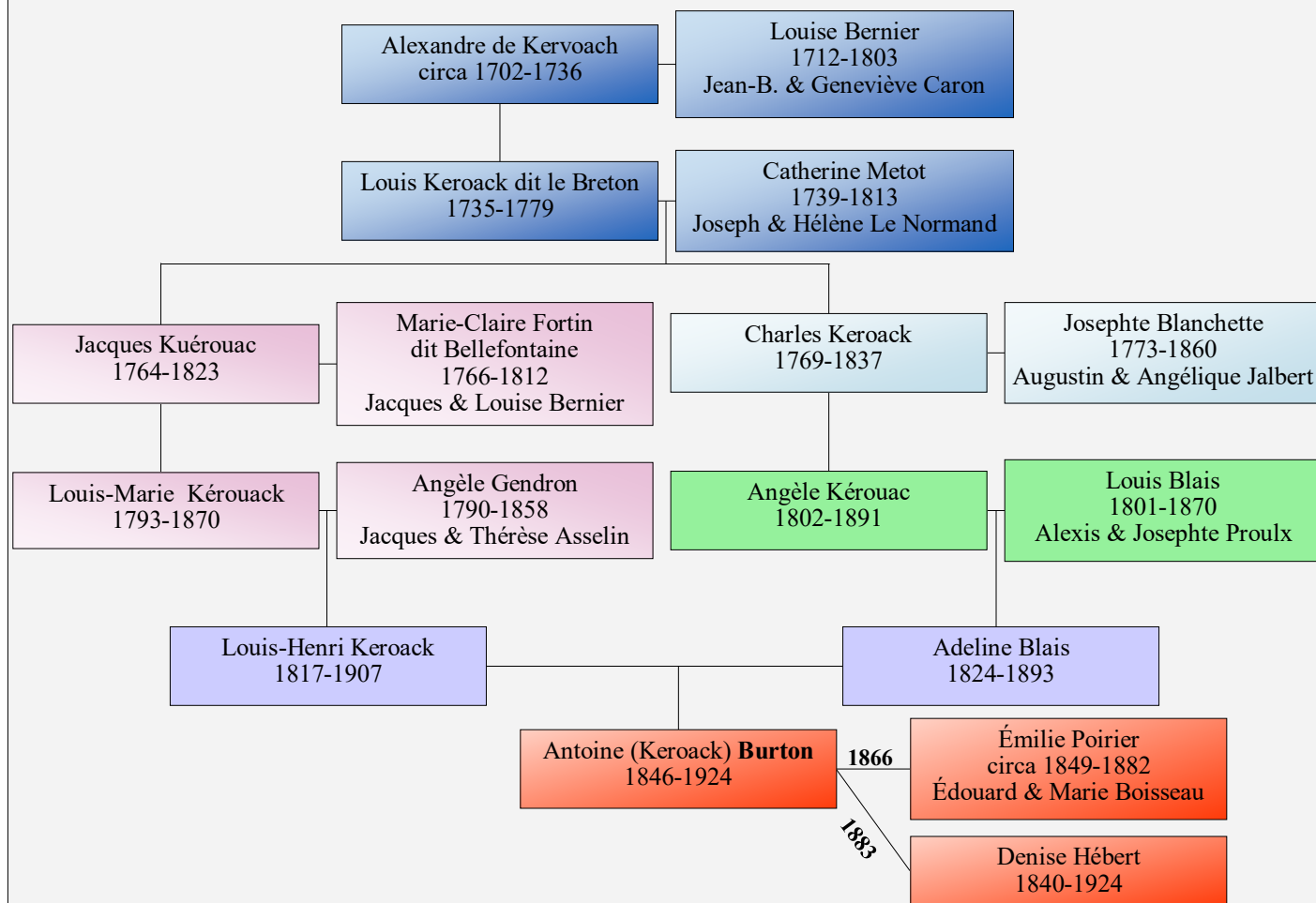
⁵ St. Jean-Baptiste, Keeseville, NY, births, marriages, sepultures, 1853-1915, B 13, 25 June 1865; M 46, 30 July 1866 [transcribed from microfilm, not online].
-Ancestry.com. U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850-1885, 1870, New York, Clinton Co., town of Au Sable.

Children of Louis-Henri Keroack and Adeline Blais

Aimé :	1841-1906
Louis :	1843-1897
Antoine :	1846-1924
Philomène :	abt. 1848-1851
Mélanise :	1850-1862
Joséphine :	1852-1869
Délina :	1855-1933
Joseph :	1857-1924
Philomène :	1859-1919
Napoléon :	1861-1938
Paul :	1863-1881
Alphonse :	1865-1930
Sévère :	1870-

⁶-*Gazetteer of the State of New York*, 1860, Clinton Co., town of Au Sable, p. 235.

Ancestry of Antoine Keroack who became Antony Burton in the United States



In the 1870 census Antoine "Bertin," wife Emily and their three children were living in the village. He was employed as a cabinet maker by R. Prescott & Sons which engaged over one hundred persons in making architectural components, furniture, homes and bridges.

South of the river in Lewis, Amos Burt (i.e., Aimé Keroack), his wife, Josephine and their five children lived adjacent to another brother, Louis Burt (Keroack), wife and child, the widowed Angeline Blais and her unmarried son Leander Blais. In the next dwelling was her son Severe Blais, his wife and several children. All worked on the Blais family farm⁷.

In the 1880 census, the family of Anthony Burton was almost complete. Their seven children ranged in age from 12 to one year. Later that year, Edmund was born.

In 1882 both infant Edmund and his mother Emily died. On 4 Sept 1883 Antoine Keroack married in Hemmingford, Quebec, Denise Hebert, widow of Felix Pepin whom she had married in Plattsburg, NY in 1867⁸.

Amos Burt and his growing family moved to the town of Jay in western Essex Co. In 1880 he was again a laborer, but whether on a farm or for the local iron smelting firms is not known. However, by 1882 he relocated to Plainfield, Conn., joining several of his younger siblings who had begun working at the

1880 U.S. Census, Ausable, Clinton County, New York State

Family Name	First Name	Age	Place of Birth	Profession
Burton	Anthony	35	Canada	Joiner
"	Emily P.	35	New York	
"	Edward	12	"	
"	Adeline	11	"	
"	Joseph	10	"	
"	Alfred	8	"	
"	Eldrick	7	"	
"	Freddie	5	"	
"	Delia	1	"	

Wauregan cotton mill. having emigrated directly from Henryville, Quebec. There, all used the surname Keroack/Kerouack⁹.

While there is no remaining 1890 census, New York State's census of 1892 lists Antoine Burton as a carpenter and four of his older children, now adults, were embarked on the types of careers in which they remained.¹⁰

In the 1900 census, living with their parents, Ada[line] and Joseph were clerks, she in a dry-goods shop; "Derrick" (Eldrick), clerk and later a salesman in a furniture shop. The youngest, Julia, known as Delia, was in school. Eldest son Edward lived nearby with his wife Clara and her daughter from an earlier marriage. Another married son "Alphus" [Adolphus] lived across town with his wife and son.¹¹

⁷-1870 U.S. Census, Clinton Co., Ausable, p. 19 [stamped 46], household 131/ family 154; Essex Co, Lewis, p. 36-37, [stamped 171], households 295-297.
-nyshistoricnewspapers.org, *Essex County Republican*, 25 May 1973, p. 13, "Prescott Furniture Factory, Keeseville."

⁸-1880 U.S. Census, Clinton Co., Au Sable, ED 4, p. 6B [stamped 42], dwelling 58, family 63. Alfred, age 8, was named as Alphonse in later records. St. Jean-Baptiste, 1853-1915, burials of Edmund 19 Feb 1882, Emilia on 19 Sept 1882 [transcribed]. The child baptized as Henry Alfred ("Freddy" in the 1880 census) is named on the family headstone with his year of death as 1882 (note 22).
-Catholic Parish Registers, St-Romain, Hemmingford, M 7, 4 Sept 1883, image 114/440, Kerouack-Hebert marriage.

⁹-1880 1880 U.S. Census, Jay, Essex Co., ED 48, p. 8, dwelling 61, family 61, household of Amos Burt. 1880 U.S.
-Census, Plainfield, New London Co., ED 130, p. 36, household of Joseph Kirowack, lines 47 -50.

¹⁰-New York State Census, 1892, Ausable, Clinton Co., ED 1, p. 10, line 49, left column.

¹¹-1900 U.S. Census, Ausable, Clinton Co., ED 4, p. 9B [stamped 47, verso], lines 70-75, household of Antoine Burton; p. 9A [stamped 47], lines 29-31, household of Edward Burton; p. 6B [stamped 44, verso], lines 63-65, household of Alphus [sic] Burton.

Adolphus had married in Montreal, to Ezilda (Ida) Laboissiere who was born near the Burtons in New York but whose family had returned to Canada. The couple lived in Keeseville where their son Aurele Euclide was born 20 September 1899 and his name was anglicized and transposed to Euclid Orrel in civil records. Adolphus died in late 1906. In 1908 his widow Ida Burton married George Henry Dustin, himself a widower, in his hometown of West Chazy. Her son Euclid joined the Dustin children in the blended household¹².

On 29 April 1908 Adeline Burton married Julius J. Baillargeon, a recently widowed Keeseville man with several small children. Addie, as she was known, did not have children with Julius. He had been a barber and was then employed as a hotel steward. Addie had clerked in department stores and worked with him at the hotel. In 1909 Antoine & Emily's youngest daughter Julia Delia died in Montreal, Quebec. She had entered the convent of the Soeurs de Sainte-Croix (Congregation of the Holy Cross) about 1898¹³.

In 1915, Antoine and Denise lived in town by themselves. Antoine was still employed as he had been for almost fifty years as a sash and blind maker at the Prescott factory.

Children of Antoine Keroack (Anthony Burton) and Émilie Poirier

Edward :	1867-1932
Adeline :	1869-1934
Joseph :	1870-1941
Alphonse :	1872-1907
Aldéric :	1874-1966
Alfred :	1876-1882
Délia :	1878-1909
Edmund :	1880-1882

Early in 1916, he was appointed the Keeseville postmaster, serving under the name of Antoine Kerouack. He held the post for six years. In the 1915 state and the 1920 federal censuses, both he and son Eldrick, as assistant postmaster, were using the surname Kerouack¹⁴.

When the U.S. entered the World War, Eldrick registered for the military draft, 12 Sept 1918, as part of the older group. His nephew Euclid O. Burton registered at his hometown of West Chazy, N.Y. although he was then a student at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.¹⁵

1924 was a difficult year for the family. Antoine Burton died 28 June, age 78, and his son-in-law Julius Baillargeon 6 July in Plattsburgh. The *Essex County Republican* ran a lengthy obituary and funeral report, "*Antoine Nelson Burton ... has constantly been regarded as an upright and industrious citizen, and for a remarkable period of fifty years and six months was a trusted employee of R. Prescott and Sons.*"¹⁶

In Antoine's will he left his house valued at \$1,500 to his wife for her lifetime and \$1000 in cash to be divided between his children, Adeline Baillargeon and Edward of Keeseville, Joseph of Jersey City, NJ, and Eldrick of Schenectady, NY. Denise did not live long to enjoy the house, she died in a Plattsburgh hospital on 24 Oct 1924.¹⁷

¹²-St-Charles Catholic Parish Register, Montreal, M 50, 17 Nov 1896, image 94/483.

-NY Birth Index, 1881-1942, Euclid Orrel Burton, 20 Sept 1899 #43384.

-NY Death Index, 1852-1956, Alonzo [sic] Burton, 30 Sept. 1906, Putnam, [number illegible]. Place names in the index are localities. Family headstone lists death year as 1907 (note 22). There is also a Putnam in nearby Washington County.

-nyshistoricnewspapers.org, Plattsburgh Sentinel, 18 Dec 1908, p. 2, Dustin-Burton marriage,

-NY County Marriage Records, 1907-1936, Clinton Co., p. 69 #342.

¹³-NY County Marriage Records, 1907-1936, 29 April 1908, p. 17 #77. Ancestry.com. Drouin Collection, Ville Saint-Laurent, 1909-1914, S 96, 18 Sept 1909, Sr. Marie de Saint-Medard, nee Delia Kirouack, age 31, image 43/355.

¹⁴-New York State Census, 1915, Ausable, Clinton Co., ED 1, p. 2, line 47, left column, household of Antwine Kerouack.

-nyshistoricnewspapers.org, Elizabethtown Post, 10 Feb 1916, p. 1, "Antoine Burton has been nominated ..." 1920 U.S. Census, Ausable, Clinton Co., p. 2A, line 46, household of Antoine Kerouack.

¹⁵-Ancestry.com. U.S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918; 12 Sept 1918, Eldrick Burton #1610, described as "medium height, stout;" 12 Sept 1918, Euclid Orrel Burton #2739, "medium height, slender."

¹⁶-NY Death Index, 1852-1956, Ausable #36304, Antoine Burton. nyshistoricnewspapers.org, Essex County Republican, 4 July 1924, p. 5. NY Death Index, 1852-1946, Plattsburgh #39259, Julius Baillargeon.

¹⁷-nyshistoricnewspapers.org, Plattsburgh Sentinel, July 11, 1924, p. 5, "Estate of \$2500 left by Burton." NY Death Index, Plattsburgh, 1924 #55498.

The widowed Addie Baillargeon lived with her youngest stepchild Genevieve and her brother Eldrick in Schenectady, NY until she relocated to St. Petersburg, FL where she died in 1934. Genevieve in 1930 was a teacher in a South Dakota orphanage. Edward died in Keeseville suddenly of heart failure in October 1932 while listening to a baseball game on the radio. Joseph L. had moved to New York City. In 1940, he was a clerk in a pencil factory in Jersey City, NJ. He died at Hopewell, NJ on 27 July 1941, age 70.¹⁸

Euclid O. Burton graduated from Cornell University in 1924 majoring in mechanical engineering. He married Vera Robinson of West Chazy, N.Y. on 7 Sept. 1926. The couple moved to Philadelphia, PA where he was employed by the Philadelphia Electric Co., and later as an engineer at Philco Co., one of the largest radio

manufacturing firms in the country. Euclid and Vera had one daughter, Lois, born in 1929. Euclid in 1940 was employed at Philco in Detroit, Michigan¹⁹. He was a resident of Abington, Pennsylvania, at his death on 28 Dec. 1958. His funeral notice stated that employees at Philco were invited to the services Michigan²⁰.

Eldrick was the last survivor of the first generation born in the U.S. His residence was stated as Boght Corners, a town outside Albany, NY. He died in New York City on 12 December 1966 at the age of 92.²¹

The family headstone in St. John's Cemetery, Keeseville, as transcribed, lists members of this family as Keroack, with individual names and dates up to 1963, reflecting their original Quebec identities as recorded in Catholic church records.²²

¹⁸ -NY State Census, 1925, Schenectady, Schenectady Co., Ward 13, ED 4, p. 10. 1930 U.S. Census, Turton, Spinks Co. SD, ED 58-46, p. 4A, [stamped 242], line 9.

-FL Death certificate #10452, and www.findagrave.org, memorial ID 12002448, Addie Burton Baillargeon. -nyshistoricnewspapers.org, Essex County Republican, 7 Oct. 1932, p. 5, obituary, E.L. Burton. 1940 U.S. Census, -Jersey City, NJ, ED 24-226, p. 61A, line 38, Joseph Burton, lodger.

-nyshistoricnewspapers.org, Glen Falls Times, 30 July 1941, p. 10, funeral of Joseph Burton.

¹⁹ -Successive annual issues of the Cornell Register, 1921-1924 list him in the classes of 1922 through 1924, leaving the assumption that he graduated in the latter year. NY Marriage Records, 1907-1936 #26067, also Plattsburgh Daily Republican, 8 Sept 1926, p. 3. 1930 U.S. Census, Philadelphia, Philadelphia Co., ED 51-692, p. 9B, line 97. 1940 U.S. Census, Detroit, Wayne Co., ED 47-1477, p. 3B, line 66

²⁰ -Newspapers.com. Philadelphia Inquirer, 30 Dec. 1958, p. 12, obituary.

²¹ NY Death Index, 1957-1969 #8501.

²² -nnytombstoneproject.net/clinton/ausable/st_johns.htm.

-Findagrave.org ID 126925821 does not show individual names on reverse of stone.

**Inscription on the back of the monument
in Keeseville, New York**

KEROACK
Father / Anthony N. 1845 - 1924
KEROACK
Mother / Emilie 1848 - 1882
KEROACK
Alphonse 1872 - 1907
KEROACK
Joseph L. 1870 - 1941
KEROACK
Alderic 1874 - 19 -
KEROACK
Alfred 1876 - 1882
KEROACK
Edmund 1880 - 1882
KEROUACK
Edw. KEROUACK 1867 - 1932



Monument of the family of Antoine (Anthony) Keroack (Burton) and Émilie Poirier in Keeseville, New York

Quirouet/Quirouac

The Douglastown Branch

The Search Goes On - Where Are We Now?

by François Kirouac

In December 2003, in Trésor des Kirouac, no. 74, I published an article about the second greatest genealogical K/ enigma; the first one being our ancestor's identity and origin. A whole branch of Kirouacs, some 122 known to this day, all descendants of one couple: Augustin Quirouet (or Quirouac) and Sarah Holland who were married at Percé on 19 May 1839 have yet to be attached to the K tree.

In the marriage record for Augustin and Sarah, the husband's parents are listed as François Quirouet and Catherine Gagné. We are still facing the same question: does this branch really belong to the descendants of Alexandre de Kervoach? Presently, it is impossible to attach them to our genealogical tree because no marriage record exists bearing those two names: no record has been found yet, between François Quirouet and Catherine Gagné.

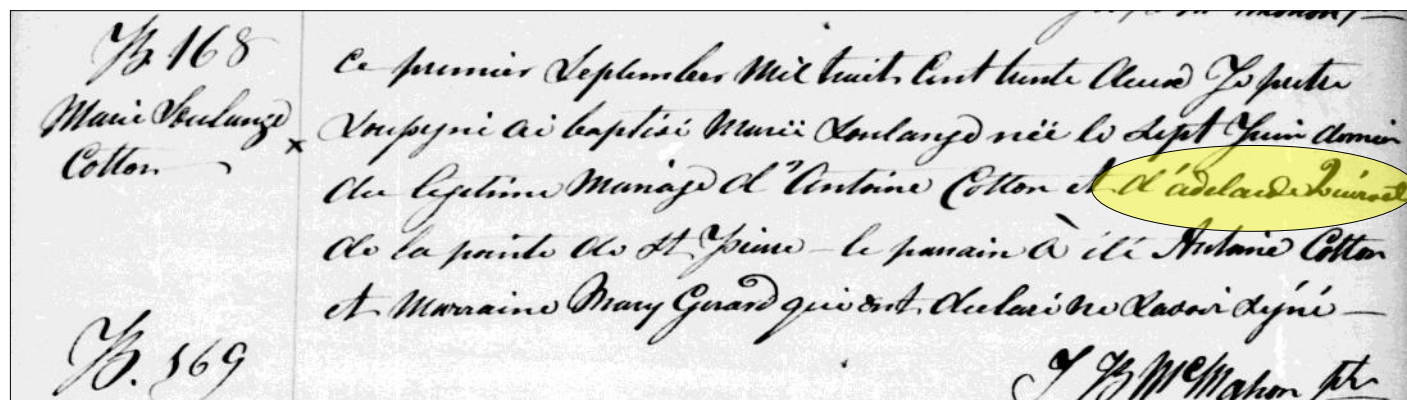
So far, the existence of the Quirouet/Gagné couple is only mentioned in the Quirouet/ Holland marriage

record of 19 May 1839. Furthermore, there is no birth certificate for one Augustin Quirouet, no death certificate for his parents, François Quirouet, his father, or Catherine Gagné, his mother.

Did this couple have another child? No document to this effect has ever been found. In the absence of such sources, it is impossible to know the names of the parents of said François Quirouet or Quirouac. Besides, are these two surnames correct? Which one is the right one? As you will read in the following paragraphs, you will understand why these questions can be asked and how they can be answered.

The PRDH¹ as well as the Fichier Lafrance² provide no extra information about this Quirouet/ Gagné couple.

Let's study some original records found so far.



The Quirouet surnames found in the Gaspé Peninsula (Gaspesia)

In the above record one can see the very first mention of the name **Quirouet** in a Gaspesia register. In the register of Saint-Michel Parish at Percé, dated First September 1832, when Marie Soulange Cotton, daughter of Antoine Cotton and Adélaïde (wrong first name) Quirouet, was baptized. In 1832, that was seven years before the marriage of Augustin Quirouet (or Quirouac) with Sarah Holland, the couple we are unable to attach to our Kirouac family tree.

The wedding of Marie Soulange Cotton's parents, Antoine Chicoine dit (known as) Cotton and Marie-Rose-Délina **Quirouet**, had taken place four years earlier, on 19 November 1828 in Notre-Dame Parish at Quebec City.

In the above record, the celebrant indicated that the parents are from Pointe St-Pierre in Gaspesia and writes Adélaïde as the mother's Christian name but

¹ PRDH, Programme de recherche en démographie historique, = Historical Demographic Research Programme created by Montreal University incorporating all data found in the Province of Quebec's parishes from 1621 to 1849. Including all civil records, a genealogical dictionary of all families as well as a repertory of all unions and filiations (<https://www.prdh-igd.com>)

² Fichier Lafrance, is a computerized data base including some four million records of baptism, marriage and burial for North American people of French descent. (<https://www.genealogiequebec.com/en/lafrance>)

it is a mistake. Without any doubt, I can assert that it is a mistake made by the celebrant because of what I have found in other parish registers while searching in various parishes registers in Douglastown, located between Gaspé and Percé.

On 10 August 1848, sixteen years after Marie Soulange Cotton's Christening, her name comes up in the marriage register when she weds one William Synnett (Anglicized form of his French name: Guillaume Sinotte, as seen written in other documents). In this marriage record, we see the real names of Marie Cotton's parents, e.g., Délima Quirouette and Antoine Chicoine dit Cotton. Délima Quirouet, Marie Cotton's mother, is the daughter of Jean-Baptiste Quirouet and Julie Quéret dit Latulippe and the granddaughter of one François Tirouet³ and his wife Marie Wells dit Galibois. At first, this Délima Quirouet does not seem to be related at all to our Augustin Quirouet (or Quirouac).

However, let's see if there could be a family link? Augustin's birth is estimated around 1811 and Délima was born on 14 May 1809 at Saint-Jean-Port-Joli. So, they

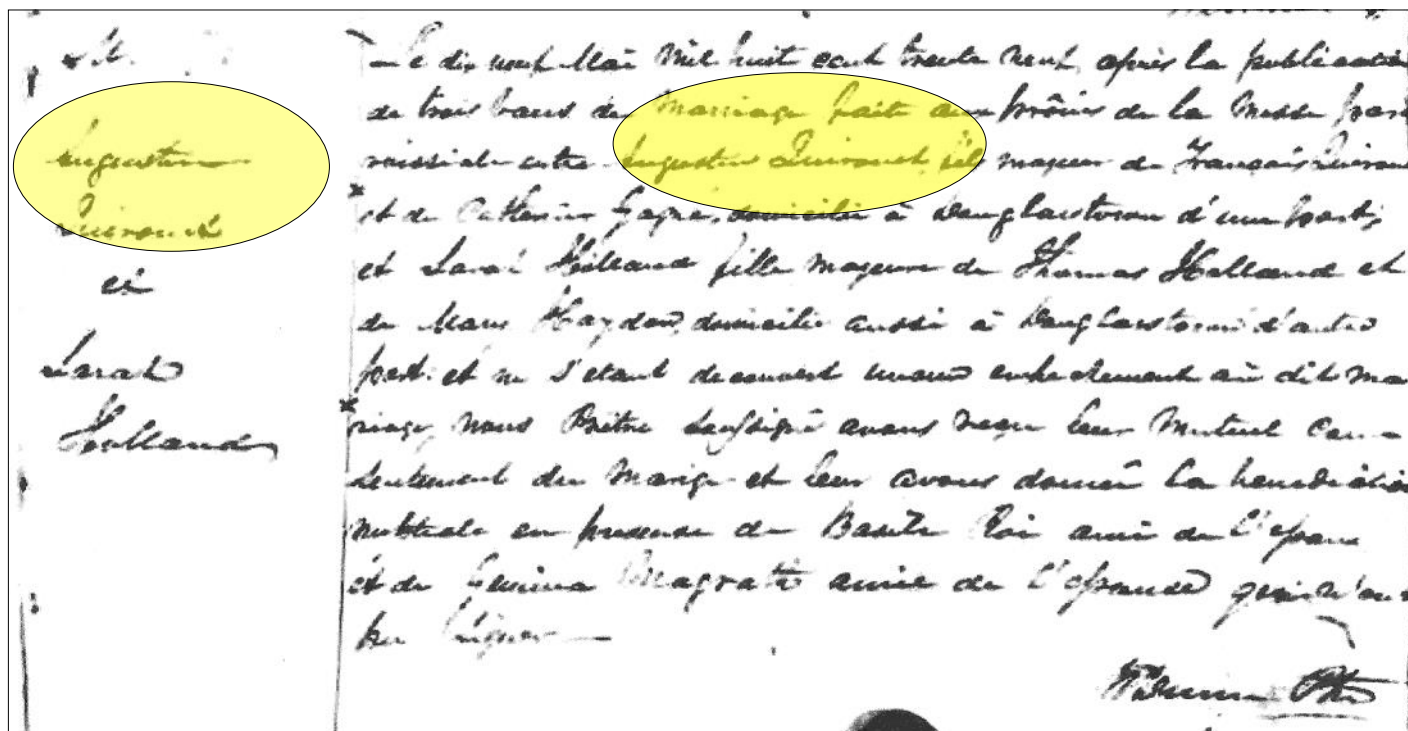
belong to the same generation. Could they be related? Délima already had a first cousin living in Gaspésie, Olivier Quirouet (son of François-Thomas Quirouet and Marie-Anne Hill); Olivier died at Bonaventure on Gaspé's south coast on 14 April 1839.

Could another cousin have been living in the same area? Supposing Augustin were a Quirouet descendant rather than a Quirouac one, could that be possible?

The presence of two documented descendants of François Tirouet in the area could support this hypothesis. I am not alone asking this question. André Kirouac from Sainte-Croix-de-Lotbinière was the first to consider this possibility over twenty years ago.

Nevertheless, among the 66 descendants of François Tirouet identified to this day who lived between 1787 and 1850, no François Quirouet married to a Catherine Gagné has been found, nor a single descendant called Augustin.

Let's study more records.



Marriage of Augustin Quirouet with Sarah Holland

In the church register at Percé dated 19 May 1839, in the marriage record we read that Augustin Quirouet is the son of François Quirouet and Catherine Gagné; and Sarah Holland is the daughter of Thomas Holland and Mary Haydon. It is very clear that the surname written in the record is **Quirouet** and not **Quirouac**. This goes along the line of the above hypothesis. However, may we think or assume that the celebrant made a mistake when he wrote the surname in the register.

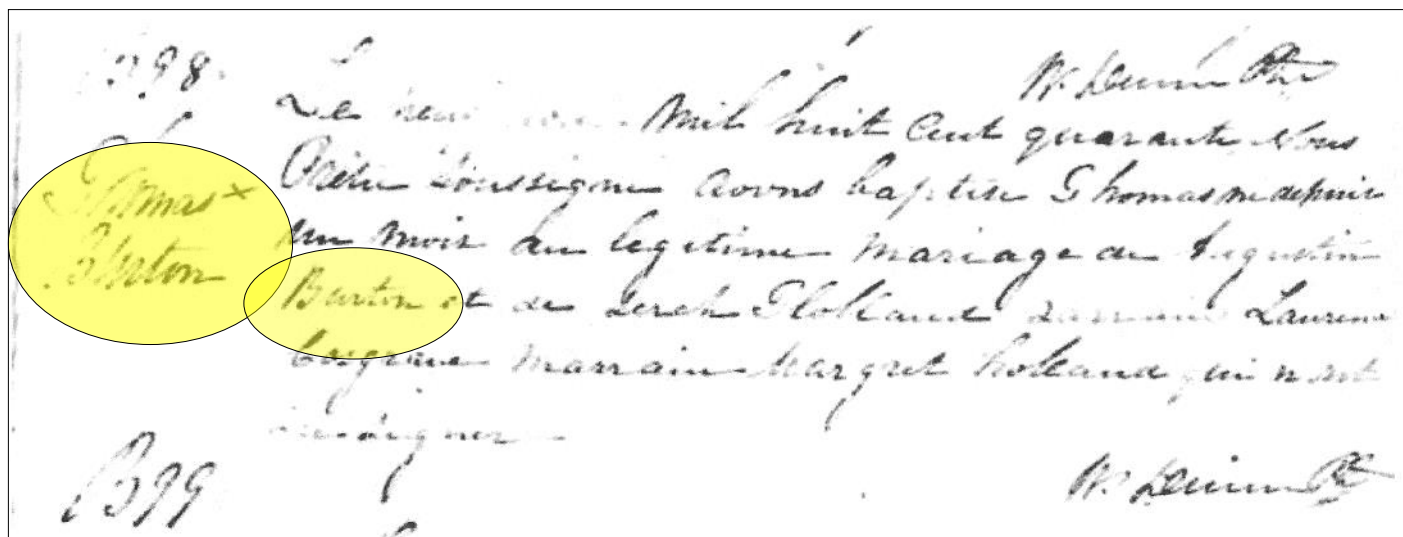
³ The PRDH gives two origins for François Tirouet (Quirouet). The first one appears in his personal file as being from Saint-Martin, Fraisse, Bishopric of Périgord, Périgord (near Bergerac, Dordogne); and the second entry is his marriage record at: Ambarez, Diocese of Bordeaux, France. Which one is the right one? At this point in time, I do not know.

This kind of mistake was not unusual at the time. Let's remember that spelling then was not a priority, people did not pay attention to spelling of words in general nor to names and surnames either. Think about the saga concerning our ancestor's names and surnames!

One more thing, the celebrant at the wedding in 1839, was not the same as the one at the christening in 1832. It is possible that the second celebrant knew Délina

Quirouette and Antoine Chicoine dit Cotton. The population of Percé (Pointe St-Pierre) was rather small then. So, could he have mixed up the surnames Quirouac and Quirouet? Let's admit that they are quite similar when written and even more so when pronounced. Why think that this could be mistaken?

Let's study more records to see if it is so.



The Quirouet/Holland children

First child:

On 9 August 1840, their first child was baptized and, in the church register, we notice that the surname Quirouet has disappeared and is replaced by Burton. Isn't that strange?

It is a known phenomenon within the Kirouac descendants. The surname Le Breton, used by our ancestor Alexandre de Kervoach dit le Breton, has been carried on by many of his descendants over many generations after his death.

In a Kirouac-Breton family who migrated to the USA during the 19th century this is perfectly clear and documented. Surrounded by English speaking people, one American branch in our genealogical tree officially changed their surname Breton for Burton⁴. This is easily understandable when knowing how the name Breton is pronounced by Anglophones, it becomes berton sounding very much like burton. Anyway, Berton or Burton both are definitely easier to pronounce than Kirouac no matter how it is written, and much easier to write.

Let's go back in time and look at the population at the eastern end of the Gaspé peninsula then, it comprised Loyalists from the States and Irish immigrants who had fled the potato famine in Ireland. Is it surprising then to find the surname Burton in a record particularly if Augustin was regularly known as le Breton.

But why would people have done that? Was Augustin Quirouet's real name Quirouac dit Breton or was he a Quirouet (Tirouet) descendant? In the first record, we do read Quirouet. Are we really looking at a mistake written in the church register? Could the celebrant have mixed up the two names Quirouet and Quirouac? Don't you think it is fair to ask the question!

Why does the surname Burton appears? Where does it come from? Would Augustin be known as Le Breton if his ancestor were the French immigrant François Tirouet mentioned before in this article? Let's not forget that according to the PRDH this Tirouet was from Dordogne in the Bordeaux region and NOT from Brittany. Wouldn't it be strange for people to call him Le Breton if he were from Dordogne? Looking at it under this angle, it seems more likely that **Augustin** would be a **Quirouac** and not a **Quirouet**.

⁴ Burton: see page 32-36 in the present Trésor, the story of how a Kirouac family morphed into Burton.

The video of her telling the story was shown at the 2011 Reunification Gathering in Kankakee-Bourbonnais, Illinois, USA.

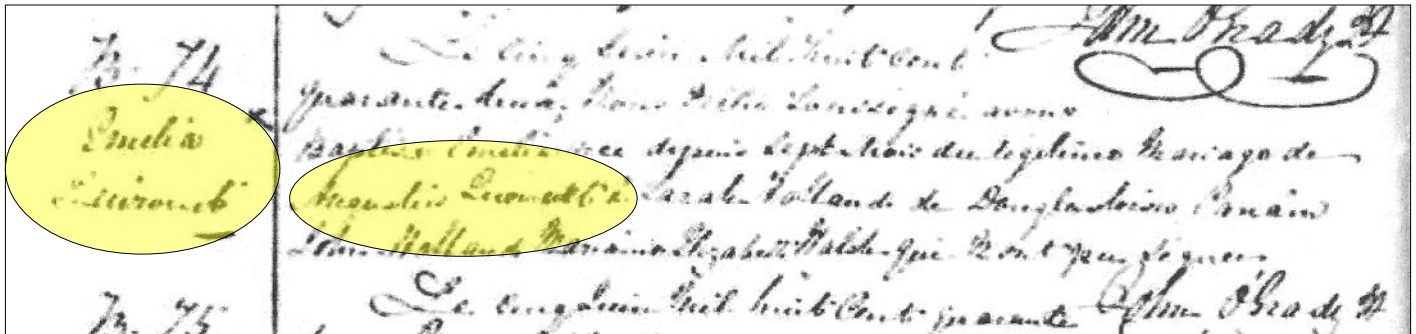
In Le Trésor #106, Greg Kyrourac had explained the name change as told by his great-aunt Blanche Burton/Kyrourac Carter.

The next generation – Thomas Burton:

For this Kirouac branch, the surname becomes established when Thomas Burton, son of Augustin and Sarah Holland, gets married. On 18 November 1867, when this Thomas is married at Saint-Patrick Church at Quebec City, with Catherine Keyes, he does so under the

name Kirouac. To me, this clearly shows that members of the family used Quirouac and not Quirouet.

Let's study another record:



The second child of the Quirouac/Holland family

Again, in the Church registers of Saint-Michel Parish at Percé, we find the baptism of the Quirouet/Holland's second child dated 5 June 1842. This time the celebrant writes the surname Quirouet in the record as one can clearly see in the above photo. This is another celebrant writing this record. The previous ones were different. In these three records concerning Augustin and Sarah Holland, the celebrant is always Irish. All three celebrants must have understood and written French because the records are written in French. However, what about the pronunciation of the people concerned talking to a priest whose maternal language it not French, could pronunciation be blamed for Quirouet and Quirouac?

This hypothesis presented before, looks weak to me particularly if one takes into account what other records reveal about the life of this second child of the Quirouet/Holland couple.

It is rather interesting to see what happened to the second daughter of the Quirouet-Holland couple. She was baptized Émilie **Quirouet**. When she married Olivier Jacques at Gaspé on 14 January 1875, her name was written as Émilie **Kirouac**. And on 25 September 1912 at Saint-Majorique in Gaspé she was buried under the name Émilie **Breton**. We know she is the same Émilie baptized as **Quirouet**, married as **Kirouac** and buried as **Breton**!

There is always the possibility of surnames wrongly spelled in records, the hypothesis still stands, but the fact that, in the family, the surname Quirouac is used regularly instead of Quirouet, seems to me to become more and more important given this second marriage under the surname Kirouac added to the fact that Émilie was buried under the surname Breton knowing that both names Kirouac and Breton go together within the K/ clan: Kirouac dit Breton, i.e., Kirouac known as Breton was usual.

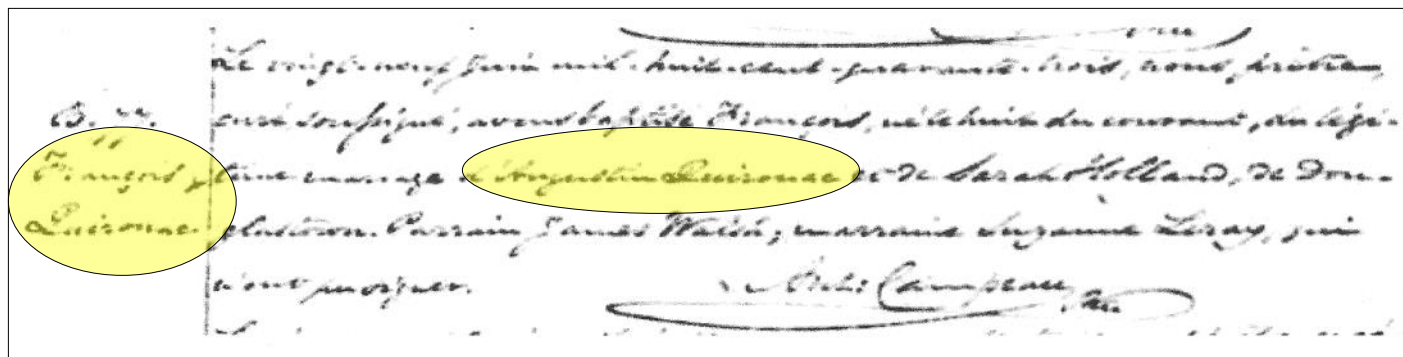
Another interesting fact may raise another hypothesis: The Quirouets live in the same region as the Kirouacs, that is: Quebec City, Berthier-en-Bas⁵, Montmagny, L'Islet and Saint-Jean-Port-Joli. Did they know each other? Visit each other? This is very likely given the sparse population then.

Could it be that people with little instruction, seeing their surname Quirouet looking much like Quirouac simply adopted one rather than the other and that the nickname attached to it followed suit simply believing that they were mistakenly pronouncing their own surname? As mentioned before, people then were not bothered by spelling?

Now, let's study the record for the Quirouac/Holland's third child

⁵ Marie Ouelle dit Galibois, wife of François Tirouet (circa 1724-1794) was buried at Berthier-en Bas at the age of 102 on 27 May 1833. Strangely enough, in the record we read that she is the widow of one Pierre Kirouac !!! This is another spanner thrown into our search given that there is no marriage between a Pierre Kirouac and

a Marie Galibois. Once more, it is obvious that at the time the surnames Quirouac and Quirouet were interchangeable in people's mind. We know that François Tirouet (Quirouet) was the son of Pierre Tirouet (Quirouet).



In the baptismal record for François, the Quirouet/Holland's third child, born at Douglastown on 8 June 1843 and baptized at Percé on 29 June, for the first time in the church register we see the surname **Quirouac** instead of **Quirouet** and this time the celebrant is a French-Canadian priest named Campeau. There were five more children to come, four daughters and one son, who were all baptized **Kirouac**, either by a French-Canadian celebrant or an Irish one.

It is John Kirouac, born at Douglastown on 7 February 1847, who will provide descendants to Augustin Quirouet and Sarah Holland. Examining the other records does not bring an answer to the twenty-year-old question: ***Does this Kirouac branch actually belong to Alexandre de Kervoach's family tree or does it belong to another ancestor?***

Summing up the hypotheses

1. Augustin is really a Quirouet and not a Quirouac. I base this claim on the fact that at the time (during the 1830s and 1840s) there were two other Quirouet relatives, Délima and Olivier, already living in Gaspésie, one at Pointe Saint-Pierre and the other at Bonaventure, 150 kilometres away (94 miles).

I also base this on the fact that it is only in 1858 that a first Kirouac was known to be living in Gaspésie and he was from one of the two branches known then; it was one Marguerite Kirouac living in Mont-Louis and taking into account that Mont-Louis is 200 kilometres from Percé (121 miles). If we look for someone living closer, then we find one Honoré Kirouac who married Sarah Couture on 22 February 1865 at Percé. But remember, this happened 26 years after Augustin Quirouet married Sarah Holland!

2. Could it be that the family of Augustin had changed its surname from Quirouet for Quirouac? It is not impossible but how to prove it?

3. OR is it possible that the celebrants officiating might have mixed up the names Quirouet and Quirouac when writing them in the parish registers? That is also possible. I have seen similar mistakes in many registers. However, that many people made the same error, seems somewhat unlikely.

4. If we study the surnames used by the children of Augustin Quirouet and Sarah Holland, when they were married and buried, it seems that this family was **Quirouac dit Breton**. This hypothesis seems still valid but it does not explain why when Augustin got married he was named Quirouet. Could it be the celebrant mixing up two surnames? Perhaps.

How can this deadlock be resolved?

In 2010, some of us had our DNA tested in order to validate the hypothesis that Urbain-François Le Bihan from Brittany, was the ancestor known as Alexandre de Kervoach in New-France. Unfortunately, the results were inconclusive because there were not enough candidates.

But one thing was established: the two branches of the Kirouac family, that of Simon-Alexandre and that of Louis, were and are from the same ancestor.

Recently, again we turned to DNA in order to break the present deadlock concerning the Kirouac branch from Douglastown in Gaspésie. A descendant of Augustin Quirouet and Sarah Holland accepted to have her DNA tested by Ancestry.com and her results were compared with two descendants of Alexandre de Kervoach.

What are the results of these analyses?

First: None of the names of any of the three participants turn up on the list of matches found by Ancestry and frankly we expected the opposite.

Second: Besides, none of the names present in one list turned up in the other two, or even in one of the two. At the moment I cannot explain that.

Third: I am the only one who has descendants of the ancestor's two sons in my list of matches found by Ancestry. Why? Again, I have no idea why at this point in time.

Fourth: For each person, the number of Kirouac matches is different.

Fifth: The Douglastown descendant is the only person who has a single match with one of the two branches of our Kirouac genealogical tree, that of Louis. And this match coincides with that of a descendant of Joseph Kirouac, son of Louis K/ and Catherine Methot, who happens to be a 4th degree cousin of Greg Kyrourac. Although the link is very weak, it is there and could help prove the hypothesis that the Douglastown branch is descended from our K / ancestor.

Unfortunately, so far, the Ancestry data base seems to have nothing on the Quirouet (or Kirouet) as this surname does not appear in the list of matches for the Gaspésia descendant. Of course, if that had been otherwise, we might well have an answer to our enigma. Even one only could be part of the answer. However, because there is one link to Greg Kyrourac's branch, an answer might be possible; but for the moment, I cannot affirm this.

Conclusion

Greg Kyrourac, our American genealogist states: *I believe that the ultimate test would be to have a male descendant from the Quirouet (Kirouet or Tirouet) branch to do his DNA test, because this is how we would see the results for the Y chromosome. If that Y chromosome is the same as that of Jacques, François and I as well as of a number of other descendants of Louis' branch who were tested by 23andMe⁶ then it would most likely prove that we have the same ancestor.*

I fully concur with Greg. With this ultimate test, we would definitely know if Augustin Quirouet/Quirouac is a descendent of Alexandre de Kervoach - OR NOT - even if we still do not know how to attach him to our Kirouac family tree. Would he be a descendent of Simon-Alexandre or Louis? Of Louis possibly because this is the only match found in the list of matches of the one Douglastown descendant who had her DNA test done.

THE SEARCH GOES ON

In the meantime, we need at least one male volunteer from the Douglastown Kirouac branch to have his DNA tested. A male volunteer from the Tirouet/Quirouet family could also prove very useful. Once again, I say, the search goes on.

⁶ 23andMe is a publicly held personal genomics and biotechnology company based in Sunnyvale, California.

SEARCHING FOR CANDIDATES WHO ARE WILLING TO TAKE A DNA TEST

In order to be able to answer the question posed in the above article about this Kirouac branch originating from Douglastown, we would like to find two volunteer men who are descendants of Augustin Kirouac and Sara Holland. Are you one of these descendants? Give us a shout!

Do you know anyone with the name Quirouette or Kirouet? If so, please put him in contact with us. It would be very useful to find two volunteers from this family who would agree to take this DNA test.

Please contact the KFA at : associationfamilleskirouac@gmail.com

De Kervoach Descendant Through The Female Line Blanche Lacombe, alias Aline Duval (1903-1967)

by André St-Arnaud

Marie-Lorenza-Blanche Lacombe was born on 22 November 1903 at L'Islet-sur-Mer and baptized the next day. Her godparents were Jean-Baptiste and Philomène Labrie. Her parents were Joseph Lacombe (1872-1918) and Georgiana Bernier (1874-1945).

On 5 January 1921 at Sainte-Brigide Church in Montreal, she married Léopold-Gaspard (Léo) Lacasse (son of Joseph Lacasse and Marie-Anna Bruyère). They had a son, André Lacasse (1921-2007). It was a very short-lived marriage, only two years, so, there is little to say about it. She was barely eighteen, it was a youthful passion and, being frequently absent for work, the relationship did not last.

In 1929, burlesque was the popular attraction then at the **Gayety**¹, (a theatre located at 86, Ste-Catherine Street West, in Montreal), the show was *Get Hot* with Al Hiller and his associate Joe Forte (1893-1967). Joe would ask funny questions and Al answered to make the public laugh. Among the main comedians in the cast, for the first time, we note Aline Duval. There is also Gladys McCormick, Billy Soslow, the dancers, Vic Hallen, Aline Rogers, and May Maiben plus a chorus.

In the Thirties, Blanche is a new face in the artistic world; she performs in theatres and on radio. With various plays, she tours the Province of Quebec and New England under the direction of Mr. Jean Grimaldi (1898-1996). Around 1929, she meets her new lover and future husband, comedian Paul Desmarceaux.

In the Forties, she is one of the many artists applauded every Sunday evenings in the variety show presented at the Montcalm Theatre at the corner of DeLorimier and St-Zotique Streets in Montreal as well as at the Roxy Theatre.

In 1946, the Crystal Palace's management, always eager to please its large clientele, hires for the season a new troupe led by Tizoune senior (1893-1954). Tizoune is surrounded by many well-known artists including Aline Duval, Effie Mack (1888-1969), Colette Ferrier, Paul Desmarceaux (1905-1974), Charles Lorrain, etc. This new company offered many important comedies at the theatre.

At the beginning of the Fifties, for only twenty cents, the Théâtre National offered its clients tickets to see two French



Aline Duval, born Blanche Lacombe (1903-1967), married Paul Desmarceaux who played the famous "Curé Labelle" in Claude-Henri Grignon's book *Les belles histoires des Pays-d'en-Haut*, e.g., the development of the Laurentian region, north of Montreal, spearheaded by the famous Parish priest Labelle. The series ran on Radio-Canada TV from 1956 to 1970

(Photo: Gaby photo-archives, 1609-1)

¹ In 1912, a 1,650-seat theatre was built at the corner of Ste-Catherine and St-Urbain Streets in downtown Montreal. Called the **Gayety** it was very successful presenting vaudeville and varieties. From 1930 to 1932, it is a movie theatre called: **Théâtre des Arts**; then **Mayfair**. In 1941, the **Gayety** comes back with burlesque; the famous American Lili St. Cyr was one of its stars. In 1953, the **Gayety** closes down but, almost immediately, is resurrected as **Radio-City** by Jean Grimaldi. In 1956, famous comedian and author, Gratien Gélinas (1909-1999), buys and renovates the building and creates the **Comédie-Canadienne**. In 1972, a theatre company created in 1951, the **Théâtre du Nouveau-Monde**, buys the building. It becomes one of the top-ranking theatres in Canada to this day.

Source: <https://journalmetro.com/actualites/montreal/657631/capsule-historique-du-gayety-au-theatre-du-nouveau-monde/> (in French)

² La Poune was born Rose Ouellette (1903-1996) in Montreal.

Ancestry of Blanché Lacombe

Generation 1

Alexandre de Kervoach
circa 1702-1736

Cap-Saint-Ignace (Quebec)
22 October 1732

Louise Bernier
(1712-1802)
(Jean + Geneviève Caron)

Generation 2

Louis Keroack
dit le Breton
(1735-1779)

Cap-Saint-Ignace (Quebec)
11 January 1737

Catherine Metot
(1739-1813)
(Joseph +
Hélène le Normand dit Jorign)

Generation 3

Victoire Keroack
(1766-1823)

Cap-Saint-Ignace (Quebec)
7 November 1785

Joseph Caron
(1759-1815)
(Bonaventure +
Marie-Claire Langelier)

Generation 4

Joseph Caron
(1787-1842)

St-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud (Qc)
20 February 1816

Adélaïde Cartier
(1791-1851)
(Jean-Baptiste +
Geneviève Picard)

Generation 5

Louis Caron
(1821 - 1895)

L'Islet (Quebec)
9 January 1844

Zoé Deroz
(1823-1913)
(François+ Marie-Claire
Fournier)

Generation 6

Zoé Caron
(1846 - 1936)

L'Islet (Quebec)
9 January 1872

Désiré Lacombe
(1848-1908)
(Romain+ Éléonore Bernier)

Generation 7

Joseph Lacombe
(1872- 1918)

L'Islet (Quebec)
15 August 1898

Georgiana Bernier
(1874-1945)
(Augustin+ Geneviève Fortin)

Generation 8

Blanché Lacombe
(1903 - 1967)

Montréal (Quebec)
8 February 1964

Paul Desmaritiaux
(1905-1974)
(Alexandre+ Elisabeth Gagnon)

André St-Jérôme, March 2022

feature films from France-Film, plus the news and a cartoon reel. Then came the stage show: La Poune & Her Company², including about fifteen comedians, plus five musicians and some other invited artists. Of course, there was Juliette Pétrie (1900-1995) who, besides dancing, singing and acting, was a great seamstress and created dazzling costumes for the company. The public loved her. Aline Duval always accompanied her beau, Paul Desmarteaux, to the theatre, eventually becoming a full member of the company.

Some people denounced the kind of shows put on at the National. However, it was a natural outcome of a long tradition always loved by the public because it made everybody LAUGH and making people LAUGH was the aim.

In 1951, back from a very successful U.S. tour, the company was invited to Saint-André-Avellin, by the local council of the Knights of Columbus to present an evening of music and sketches with Willie Lamothe (1920-1992), Gratia-Fernande Dalcourt (1922-1998), Aline Duval, Rita Germain (1924-1996), Paul Desmarteaux and Jean Grimaldi.

In 1953, Jean Grimaldi presented the biggest show in town at Radio-City, a huge musical production entitled MOULIN ROUGE by Raynolds, with thirty artists on stage and the Howard Geager orchestra. The story is about an elegant Parisian cabaret owned by a couple played by Paul Desmarteaux and Aline Duval, who were able to buy it thanks to an inheritance from a not-so-pleasant aunt played by Manda Parent (1907-1992).

In 1958, Aline Duval was in the musical show "*Winter Carnival*," part of Uncle Albert's Music-Hall. Aline is part of everything going on.

On 8 February 1964, at Saint-Pierre-Apôtre Church in Montreal, Aline Duval finally married Paul Desmarteaux in a strictly private ceremony. It did not make the news as it was kept secret. A few months earlier, Aline had had a stroke.

Her relationship with Paul lasted so many years that she got to know him better than anyone else. They had the same tastes and outlook on life, the same career, everything profoundly united them. It is also the period when they had the largest number of friends in the artistic community, the Olivier Guimond, father and son, (1914-1971), Léo Rivet (1913-1990), La Poune (1903-1996), Manda Parent (1907-1992). Their marvelous love story ended with Aline's death. Aline's demise left Paul completely at a loss. The only souvenir he had was Aline's son born from her first marriage. Paul and Aline's were officially married only in 1964, because at the time, there was no such a thing as divorce so, one had to wait for one's legal partner's demise to remarry legally.

In 1965, between two TV shows and a cabaret performance, Paul while enjoying a few days holiday with his wife Aline, suddenly felt very ill and had to be taken to the hospital in St-Eustache (off-island suburb, 35 km northwest of Montreal). In 1963, he had already been hospitalized for a first medical alert.

Aline Duval, although a pillar of burlesque and variety abandoned her career completely, the illness sapped all her energy. On 2 May 1967, after a long illness, Aline died of a heart attack at St-Eustache General Hospital at the age of 63.

At the time the couple lived at 986, 19th Avenue in Fabreville/Laval. Visitation was at Alban Malette & Son Funeral Home, 146, St. Louis Street, in St-Eustache. The funeral was on Friday, 5 May 1967 at St-Édouard Church at Fabreville/Laval. Many personalities from the theatre world and journalists attended the funeral at the church to pay their respect and homage to Aline Duval. Paul wept openly during the ceremony at the church and again at the Fabreville Cemetery where so many friends, including Claude Blanchard and Léo Rivet, went to support the bereaved Paul through his terrible loss.

When his wife died, Paul's world crumbled. However, he married again. On Saturday, 17 August 1968, at Saint-Pierre-Apôtre Church in Montreal, he took as his third wife Arlette Bouchard, a family friend aged 29. On 19 January 1974, aged 68, Paul died; he was finally reunited with his dear Aline Duval, née Blanche Lacombe, who had died barely seven years earlier, on 2 May 1967.



THE TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021 (not audited)

René Kirouac, Treasurer

The financial results for the year 2021 show a surplus of \$20.66. The number of members is only 111, down by 13 from 2020. It is a cause for concern again this year.

About revenue, it appears that they have diminished by \$856.28 compared with the previous year. The 2020 revenue included an exceptional gain of \$484.00 because two regular members paid their memberships until 2031, that is for eleven years. Excluding this last amount from the revenue, said revenue would be only \$372.28.

Same comment is valid for the item Annual Memberships that should have diminished by \$369. instead of

\$853. Besides the memberships, the other four items included in the revenue have only slightly changed in 2021 compared with 2020.

Again, it is important to underline the great generosity of our members. Indeed, gifts are always an important source of revenue for our Association. In 2021, gifts went up for a total of \$1,254.19. Heartfelt thanks from the KFA Board.

Expenses went down by \$284.11 when compared with 2020. Every item went either down or up but only slightly, except for Sundry that diminished by \$431.75.

About Sundry, it is important to note that some expenses go back to 2019: work done for our KFA Website, hosting of website and domain name. This is due to our webmaster's delay in sending the invoice. Consequently, it has been decided to include in the financial results the total cost of hosting our website and domain registration.

Concerning the work on our website, total cost is **\$3,020.14** for the last three years. In order to avoid showing a financial deficit this year, it has been decided to present an expense of only \$500 in 2021. Therefore, **\$2,520.14** will be depreciated during the following years. Finally, we can say that the KFA is financially healthy and debt-free.

Expenses related to the publication of *Le Trésor des Kirouac*

The following table presents the expenses for the three issues of our bulletin published in 2021.

Bulletin Number	135	136	137	TOTAL
Production Cost	\$864.95	\$782.01	\$884.90	\$2,531.86

Review of the Financial Report for the Year 2021

Thursday, 31 March 2022

Mr. François Kirouac, President

The *Kirouac Family Association's* treasurer, René Kirouac, gave me a copy of the Financial Results for 2021. After examining them, I asked him a few questions.

The treasurer answered to my satisfaction.

Therefore, I certify that the financial results for 2020 are correct and match the extra information supplied by the treasurer and herewith attached.

Mercédès Bolduc, G.C.C.
Financial auditor at the special request of the KFA President and Treasurer, due to the exceptional situation caused by Covid 19 restrictions

REVENUES

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS	2021	2020
Regular members (70) (86)	\$1,568.00	\$340.00
Benefactors (29) (32)	\$783.00	\$864.00
Sub-Total	\$2,351.00	\$3,204.00
PREMIUMS AND INTEREST		
Exchange on US currency	\$206.26	\$330.28
Interest earned	\$9.90	\$15.73
Sub-Total	\$216.16	\$346.01
GIFTS AND RECOVERED AMOUNT		
<i>Jacques Kirouac Fund – interest</i>	\$850.00	\$850.00
<i>Jacques Kirouac Fund (rebate)</i>	\$2.33	
Gifts towards administration	\$961.00	\$1,029.00
Gifts towards research	\$293.19	\$147.00
Recovered amounts	\$26.05	
Sub-Total	\$2,132.57	\$2,026.00
ANNUAL GATHERING		
Surplus from annual gathering		
Sub-Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
PROMOTIONAL ITEMS SOLD		
Le Trésor bulletins	\$40.00	\$115.00
Buttons & Crests		
Book - <i>Memory Babe</i>		
Book - <i>Mon Miroir</i>		
USB Card – Trésors Collection		
Book - <i>The Last Quarter Century</i>		
Book - <i>The Ancestor & His Family</i>	\$95.00	
Sub-Total	\$135.00	\$115.00
TOTAL OF REVENUES	\$4,834.73	\$5,691.01

EXPENSES

ADMINISTRATION	2021	2020
Canada Custom & Revenue (Annual Return)	\$36.00	\$36.00
Insurance, General Responsibility (12/12 months)	\$20.00	\$70.00
FAFQ Membership @ \$2/member/year	\$216.09	\$272.00
Bank Book & Bank Fees	\$136.66	\$103.90
Sub-total	\$408.75	\$481.90
BULLETIN LE TRÉSOR (no 135 to 137) (132 to 134)		
Supervisor Fee	\$100.00	\$100.00
Printing	\$1,367.50	\$1,311.42
Handling	\$155.48	\$152.12
Postal expenses (Canada)	\$505.11	\$315.49
Postal expenses (US + international)	\$503.77	\$641.64
Sub-total	\$2,631.86	\$2,520.67
SECRETARIAL EXPENSES		
Postage stamps	\$133.29	\$193.81
Photocopying	\$23.35	\$31.46
Stationery, envelopes and cards	\$24.86	\$12.19
Sub-total	\$181.50	\$237.46
GENEALOGY (Research)		
Subscriptions (Ancestry, BMS2000 and Drouin genealogy)	\$593.71	\$541.96
Ancestry-DNA-test	\$113.81	
Sub-total	\$707.52	\$541.96
MISCELLANEOUS (KFA publicity & promotion)		
Website hosting:2019-2020-2021	\$500.00	\$1,060.00
Website: work done between 2019-2021	\$199.77	\$96.37
Domain name for English & French sites in 2019-2020-2021	\$86.94	
Microsoft Publisher - (subscription)		\$159.82
Photo copyright for Le Trésor	\$97.73	
Sub-total	\$884.44	\$1,316.19
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,814.07	\$5,098.18
SURPLUS of Revenue over Expenses	\$20.66	\$592.83
BANK ACCOUNT as of 31 DECEMBER 2020		
Balance as of 31 December 2020	\$12,854.18	\$12,836.18
Revenues: from 1 January to 31 December 2021	\$5,583.73	\$5,537.01
Expenses: from 1 January to 31 December 2021	\$6,865.49	\$5,519.01
Balance as of 31 December 2021	\$11,572.42	\$12,854.18

Report of the *Jacques Kirouac Fund*

Investment of \$20,000 at Plateau Montcalm Credit Union, from 8 June 2004 to 31 December 2021

REVENUES OF THE JACQUES KIROUAC FUND

Note concerning the *Jacques Kirouac Fund*

Below, please find the financial reports for the Jacques Kirouac Fund since its inception. Its important impact on the KFA's yearly financial results and during the latest period is evident.

1st investment: five-year term deposit, from 8 June 2004 to 11 June 2009, at a rate of 4.25%;

2nd investment: convertible term deposit from 12 June 2009 to 30 October 2009, at a rate of 1.5%;

3rd investment: permanent shares issued by Caisse populaire Desjardins (Bank) on 30 October 2009, at a rate of 4.25%;

Please note: From 1 Jan to 30 Jun 2015, interest rate was 4.5%; from 1 Jul to 31 Dec 2015, interest rate was 3.5%; and from 1 Jan 2017 to 9 Feb 2017, interest rate was 2.75%.

4th investment: share in Capital Fédération from 10 February 2017, at a rate of 4.25%.

Year	Interest	Return	Total
2004 to 2010	\$5,362.11	\$361.22	\$5,723.33
2011	\$850.00		\$850.00
2012	\$852.33		\$852.33
2013	\$850.00		\$850.00
2014	\$850.00		\$850.00
2015	\$774.39		\$774.39
2016	\$701.92		\$701.92
2017	\$817.12		\$817.12
2018	\$850.00		\$850.00
2019	\$850.00		\$850.00
2020	\$850.00		\$850.00
2021	\$850.00	\$2.33	\$852.33
Total	\$14,457.87	\$363.55	\$14,821.42

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATION

	Revenues	Expenses	Revenues - Expenses	Financial Results without the JK Fund	% JK Fund on Total Revenues	Number of members
2004 to 2010	\$42,683.83	\$38,622.14	\$4,061.69	(\$1,661.64)	13.4%	1 135 (average 162/year)
2011	\$6,173.67	\$5,282.47	\$891.20	\$41.20	13.8%	178
2012	\$7,399.94	\$7,256.21	\$143.73	(\$708.60)	11.5%	178
2013	\$8,563.59	\$8,527.74	\$35.85	(\$814.15)	9.9%	158
2014	\$5,009.70	\$4,962.32	\$47.38	(\$802.62)	17.0%	134
2015	\$5,689.93	\$5,656.96	\$32.97	(\$741.42)	13.8%	148
2016	\$5,333.03	\$5,320.08	\$12.95	(\$688.97)	13.2%	131
2017	\$5,529.61	\$5,478.66	\$50.95	(\$766.17)	14.8%	139
2018	\$7,234.01	\$6,036.25	\$1,197.76	\$347.76	11.8%	149
2019	\$5,925.52	\$5,168.93	\$756.59	(\$93.41)	14.3%	137
2020	\$5,691.01	\$5,098.18	\$592.83	(\$257.17)	14.9%	124
2021	\$4,834.73	\$4,814.07	\$20.66	(\$831.67)	17.6%	111
		CUMULATIVE	\$7,844.56	(\$6,976.86)		

IN MEMORIAM

AUDET, BERNARD (1927-2022)

At Ste-Foy Hospital, Quebec, on 3 February 2022, at 94, died Bernard Audet, husband of the late Patricia Kirouac (1919-2020), daughter of Albert Kirouac and Katleen Hugues. He was the son of Béatrice Sanspitié Leclerc and Loïc Audet. His funeral was on 5 March 2022 at St-Benoît-Abbé church in Sainte-Foy and interment at St-Michel-de-Sillery Cemetery on 28 May 2022. He leaves to mourn his stepchildren (children of the late Patricia Kirouac): Ann (the late Jay Perkins), May (Yvon Chouinard), Ted, Pauline (the late André Paquet) and Carol (Danny Rouleau); step-grandchildren Lisa, Cory, Michael-John, Sacha, Jeffrey, Paddy and Tami; step-great-grandchildren Mark, Cory Jr, Anthony, Jake, Maria, Shane, Benjamin, Emy, Lea, Julia and Alexandre. He leaves one brother, Bertrand. Born at Alma, Lac-St-Jean, on 16 September 1927, Bernard studied at the Chicoutimi Seminary where he later taught. In 1987, Laval University awarded him a PhD in arts and popular traditions. Historian, author with a passion for the French language, he wrote many books about Orléans Island and the Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean region. He founded the Lac-St-Jean Historical Society; he was a member of Quebec's Superior Education Council. In 1990, the Tradition, Arts & Literature Study Centre of Laval University awarded him the *Luc-Lacoursière medal* for the best book on French American ethnology published that year.

COONEY, ANN MARGARET (1931-2022)

Ann Margaret Cooney, 91, passed away on March 13, 2022, at home surrounded by her loving family. She was the wife of the late James Edward Cooney. Born in New Bedford, Mass., she was the daughter of Emile Louis Keroack and Grace Mahoney and the

granddaughter of Joseph Keroack (GFK 00058) and Alexandrine Ouimet. She married the love of her life and happily raised her family in York, N.Y. kindergarten teacher until 1997. She is survived by her children, Kathleen Chichester, James E. Cooney Jr. (Chris), Norah C. Rogers, and Matthew D. Cooney (Lisa); brother, John Keroack, and seven grandchildren. She was the sister of the late David Keroack and the grandmother of the late Laura Chichester. Funeral Mass was held on 7 May 2022 at St. Lucy Catholic Church, Retsof, N.Y.

ERIKSEN, DEBBIE JO (1953-2022)

Debbie Jo Eriksen, born June 22, 1953, in Nampa, Idaho, was the daughter of Francis and Virginia Curwick. In November 1971, in Caldwell, Debbie married Kevin Eriksen on a love at first sight which lasted more than fifty years until her death. Less than a year after her wedding, Debbie was a victim of Hodgkin's lymphoma. A battle that lasted his entire life. She survived cancer in 1975. In 1981, her son, T. J. "the miracle baby" was born. She and her husband retired in 2009 to enjoy the country life. Survived by her husband, Kevin, her mother, Virginia Curwick, and her son T.J. At her request, her ashes will be buried in her favorite place in the mountains.

GARLAND, ROGER (1933-2021)

Roger Garland, 88, died November 1, 2021. Born March 29, 1933, he was the son of William and Nancy (née Curwack) Garland of Bingham, Illinois. Survived by his wife of over 48 years, Betty Rogers-Garland; five children, Michael (Betty) Garland, Mark (Rhonda) Garland, Lora (Randy) Stewart, Lori (Elton) Hyland, and Paul Park; nine grandchildren and several great-grandchildren; three sisters, one brother and numerous nieces and nephews. He was well known. At his request, he was cremated.

KEROACK, AUDREY (1927-2021)

Audrey Keroack, (granddaughter of Philippe, GFK 01199) age 94, of Lincoln Avenue, Warwick, died on Tuesday, November 16th, 2021. Born in Staten Island, N.Y., daughter of the late Albert and Catherine (Mahoney) Keroack, she lived in Warwick most of her life. Ms. Keroack was a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Warwick. She was the sister of the late Doris V. Power, the late Inez Irving, and the late Arthur Keroack. She leaves behind many nieces and nephews who will miss her dearly.

KÉROACK, RÉJEAN (1939-2022)

At St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, (Quebec) on 22 February 2022, at 82, died Réjean Kéroack (GFK 02517), husband of Nicole Garceau. Besides his wife, he leaves to mourn his children, the late Yvan, and Nathalie; his grandchildren, Yvan Junior, Steve; one great-grandson, Anthony; and his sister Monique. A ceremony was held on 20 March 2022 in LeSieur & Frères Funeral Chapel at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. *Réjean was KFA representative for the Montréal-Outaouais-Abitibi region, 1996-1998, and responsible for the August 1997 Kirouac gathering at Sainte-Angèle-de-Monnoir (Montreal south shore).*

KIROUAC, DANIEL ALBERT (1953-2022)

Daniel Albert Kirouac, 68, of Auburn, Maine, died in his sleep on 7 March 2022. Dan was born in Lewiston, Maine, on 26 October 1953, to Paul J. Kirouac and Dorilda M. (Cote) Kirouac; he was the grandson of Albert Kirouac (GFK 02107) and Ida Morin. Dan enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and attended the Field Music School in Parris Island, S.C., he was in The United States Drum and Bugle Corps performing with "The Commandant's Own", the only active duty drum and bugle corps in the US Armed Forces. After his military service, Dan built a career as a master plumber and owned DAK Plumbing and Heating. He is

survived by son Allen Kirouac and wife Amber; grandchildren, Brendan, Jazzmine, Piper and Dawson, sister Diane St Amand and husband Jack, former wife Diane Kirouac, brothers-in-law Donald & Kim Cote, Paul and Louise Cote, and Roger Cote and Lisa Mullen. He was predeceased by his parents, his brother Michael Kirouac, parents-in-law Lionel and Blanche Cote. A private memorial will be held at a later date.

KIROUAC, FRANÇOISE (1931-2021)

On 4 December 2021, age 90 years and ten months, died at Chicoutimi Hospital, Françoise Kirouac, from Jonquière, widow of Dr. Raymond Boucher. She was the daughter of **Berthe Nolin and Raoul Kirouac (GFK 01944)**. Her ashes were inurned in the columbarium at St-Charles Cemetery in Quebec City. She leaves to mourn her daughters, Jocelyne Boucher (Camil Tremblay), Hélène, Johanne (Guy Dion); two grandsons, Alexandre and Philippe. She was the sister of the late Germaine Kirouac (the late Philippe Côté), the late Thérèse (the late Albert Côté), the late Jacqueline (the late Roger Bédard), the late Lucette, and Raymond (Lucille Gagnon).

KIROUAC, GISEÈLE (1930-2022)

In Rouyn-Noranda, on January 18, 2022 died at the dawn of her 92 years, Gisèle Kirouac (**GFK 01305**, widow of Paul-André Caron), daughter of Yvonne Laroche and Albert Kirouac (late Irène Auger). She is survived by her son Pierre (Nathalie Gervais), her daughters Lucille and Annie (Sylvain Boisvert), her grandson Jonathan Boisvert as well as Sylvain's children, Guillaume and Marie-Pier. She is the sister of the late Gérard (late Thérèse Gervais); late Janine (late Jean-Marc Dumas); Lucille (Jacques Boulet), **KFA board member 2004-2008 and KFA representative for the Côte-du-Sud, Bas-Saint-Laurent, Gaspésie, Maritimes region**; late Roland;

Fernand (Michelle Charest); Therese (Rejean Brassard); Raymonde (Francois Dumulon); Cecile (Marc Roger); Suzanne (Jean-Marc Piette); Jocelyne; Jean (Odette Caron); Lucie (Denis Laverdière); Michel (Micheline Alix) and Richard; and sister-in-law of Jean-Marc Caron (late Noëlla Petit).

KIROUAC, JEAN-CLAUDE (1940-2022)

At Marieville, on 9 January 2022, at 81, died Jean-Claude Kirouac (**GFK 01583**). He leaves to mourn his daughter Nathalie (Marco Lacaille), his granddaughter Alex Kirouac-Lacaille, his brother, Renaud. He was the brother of the late Léona (the late Valère Marquis), the late Florence (Paul Côté) and the late William (the late France Plourde). Due to the pandemic, a ceremony will take place at a later date.

KIROUAC, JEAN-MARIE (1927-2022)

At Hôtel-Dieu Hospital in Quebec City, on 24 March 2022, at 95, died Jean-Marie Kirouac (**GFK 00542**). He was the widower of Aline Montminy. He leaves to mourn his children: Charles (Winnifred Pitcher), John (Johanne Delisle), Louise (Bertrand Germain) and Paul (Anny Jeffrey); his grandsons: Richard, Philippe, Simon, Martin, Jean-François and his granddaughter: Catherine; his great-grandchildren; his Montminy sisters-in-law: Louise, Mabel (Brian A Doherty) and Denise. He was the brother of the late Roland (the late Mariette Pouliot), Simone (the late Laurent Masson), the late Raymond (the late Jeannette Robitaille-Côté, Gabriel (the late Jeannine Simard), Henri (the late Yvette Lapointe) and the late Thérèse. A memorial service was held in the chapel of the Beauport Seigneurie Funeral Cooperative on 29 March 2022. His ashes will be interred in the Belmont Cemetery in Saint-Foy, Quebec, at a later date.

KIROUAC, LOUISE (1942-2021)

On 21 December 2021, at 79, died at home, Louise Kirouac (**GFK 01994**), widow of Clermont Langlois. She was the daughter of the late Albert Kirouac and the late Marie-Aimée Bernier. She leaves to mourn her children, Christian and Carole; her siblings and spouses, Lucien (Nicole Cloutier), the late Jeannine, Simone (the late Benoît L'Heureux), the late Claude, Carmelle (Alain Cloutier), André (Lucie Gamache) and Monique Langlois (Jean-Paul Blouin).

KIROUAC, MARGUERITE (1939-2022)

At Marie-Pagé Residence in Victoriaville, on 17 January 2022, at 82, died Marguerite Kirouac (**GFK 00811**), wife of Gilles Latulippe, and widow of Gilles Landry. She was the daughter of Robert and Lumina (née Labrecque) Kirouac and the sister of Renaud and Clément, KFA respectively regional and KFA president. She leaves to mourn her children: Daniel Landry, Mario Landry, Dominique Landry (Marc-André Pépin), Sylvain Landry (Grégoire Landry) and her grandchildren: Louis-Philippe (Mégane) and Félix-Antoine (Vickie). She also leaves to mourn her step-son, Daniel Latulippe (Manon Bilodeau) and his son William Latulipe (Audrée). Marguerite was the sister of Clément (the late Éliane Tardif), the late Paul (Pauline Beaudoin), the Renaud (Denise Pépin) and André (Claudette Langlois). Due to the pandemic, funeral was strictly private.

KIROUAC, PAUL-ÉMILE (1939-2021)

At Saint-Albert-de-Warwick, on 16 December 2021, at 82 years and four months, died Paul-Émile Kirouac (**GFK 00987**) husband of Jeannine Levesque. Besides his wife, he leaves to mourn his children: Gabriel (Chantal Poisson), Jean, and Gilles (Huguette Lecours); his grandchildren:

Michaël (Hélène Lapointe), Guillaume (Amélie Dargy) and Samantha (Erica Hausen), Laurie, Véronique, Thomas and Gilbert; two great-grandsons: Benjamin and Logan. He was the brother of the late André (Lisette Boisvert), Hélène (the late Clément Jutras) and the late Benoit (Angéline Angers). A memorial ceremony was held on 23 December 2021 in the chapel of Grégoire & Desrochers Funeral Home at Victoriaville.

**KIROUAC, ROGER
CHRISTOPHER (1952-2021)**

Roger Christopher Kirouac (**GFK 00359**), 69, died at his home in Altus, Oklahoma on October 30, 2021. Funeral services were held on November 8, 2021 at Prince of Peace Catholic Church. His ashes were laid in Fort Sill National Cemetery, Elgin, Oklahoma, with full military honors. Roger, born October 12, 1952 in Rochester, New Hampshire, was the son of Ernest J. and Therese (Ruest) Kirouac. From 1972 to 1992, he served as a non-commissioned officer in the United States Air Force. His work took him all over the world and to Altus Air Force Base where he met Donna and married her on February 21, 1976. They have two children, Melissa and Todd. He retired in 1992 and then worked as a civilian service analyst at the Altus base for twenty years. Predeceased by Roger were his parents and in-laws, WJ and Imogene Risinger. Survived by his wife, Donna, his daughter, Melissa Robin (Christopher) Albright; his son, Todd Alex (Candice) Kirouac; two grandchildren, Joshua Taylor Gauden and Ryker Casen Kirouac; his brother, Joseph E. Kirouac (Judy); his sister, Marie Alice Kirouac, and many relatives and friends.

**KIROUAC, ROSE-AIMÉE
(1916-2022)**

On 22 March 2022 in Quebec City, died Rose Aimée Kirouac (**GFK 01445**) at the age of 105. She was born on 27 July 1916. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ignace Sirois; her parents, Ludger Kirouac and Marie Louise Castonguay; one grandson Régis; and one great-grandson, Yoan; her siblings, Julien (Jeanne Jalbert), Rolland (Aldine Pelletier) and Venant. She leaves to mourn her children: Clairette (the late Laurent Dubé, Marielle (the late Emilien Garneau), Réjean (Nicole Rioux), Réjeanne (Jean-Pierre Lapierre) and Gaétane; her grandchildren, Hélène, Linda (Luc Chassé), Chantal (Rémi Dionne), Guylaine (Claude Tremblay), Jasmine (Jean-François Grégoire), Alain, Sonia, Geneviève (Benoit St-Pierre) and Sébastien (Mélanie Côté); her great-grandchildren, ÉriKa, Daren, Kelly, Camille, Charles, Tristan, Samuel and Mégane; her brother Benoît; and her sister Rosanne (Rolland Pelletier). Funeral was held on 16 April 2022 at the Funérarium Marc-André Rioux à Rivière-du-Loup. *See Le Trésor des Kirouac, number 137, p. 31.*

**LABERGE, BÉATRICE
(1934-2022)**

On 9 February 2022, at 87, died at home in Jonquière (Quebec) Béatrice Laberge. She was the daughter of François and Émilie (née Kérouack) Laberge (**GFK 02442**). She leaves to mourn her siblings, the late Mariette Laberge, the late Jean-Charles (the late Marguerite Savard), the late Rose-Aline, the late Dominique (the late Marguerite Boily), the late Gertrude, the late Abbe Léon and François-Xavier (the late Hermance Tremblay). Béatrice attended many KFA annual gatherings since the first one in 1980. Her funeral was at St-Dominique Church in Jonquière on 26 February 2022.

**LAVOIE-KIROUAC, RITA
(1925-2022)**

Sadly we announce that Rita Lavoie Kirouac (**GFK 01491**), died on 23 February 2022 at the age of 96. She was preceded in death by her husband Wilfrid Kirouac; her parents, Mathilda Pinet and Aimée Lavoie; and her daughter Claudette (the late Gorman Lord). She leaves to mourn her children: Bibiane (Maurice Ouellet), Lise (Marcel Boisvert), Gratien (Jacinthe St-Pierre), Venant, Martin and Gino (Nathalie Pelletier). Funeral was held on 5 March 2022 in Saint-Louis-du-Ha! Ha! parish church to be followed by interment in the Cabano Cemetery.

**MILBERT, DAVID M. Jr.
(1963-2021)**

From Greene, Maine, died on 4 December 2021. David was born on 3 October 1963 in Fitchburg, Mass., the oldest child of David M. Milbert and Judith (**Kirouac**) Milbert. Retired young due to medical issues. David is survived by his daughter Maranda Milbert; his sisters, Marsha Poulin and Jodi Lucas, his brother Michael Milbert; and by numerous relatives. He was predeceased by his father in March 2021 and by his mother, on 23 October 2021. No service.

**MILBERT, JUDITH A.
(1942-2021)**

Judith A. Milbert, 79, of Greene, died 23 October 2021. She was born 10 September 1942 in Fitchburg, Mass., daughter of **Camille and Dorothy Kirouac**. On 10 September 1960 she married David M. Milbert of Fitchburg, Mass. They were married for more than 60 years until David's passing seven months ago on 28 March 2021. Judith is survived by her children David M. Milbert Jr., Marsha J. Poulin, Jodi E. Lucas, and Michael D. Milbert; her grandchildren Matthew Jones, Marissa Vining, Nathan Vining, Michael Milbert Jr.,

Maranda Milbert, Davina Poulin, Danyel Poulin, Mykul Rojas, Michelle Curtis and Mykealla Lucas; four great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, David M. Milbert; and by her siblings David Kirouac, Bernadette Marceau and Christine Duprey. At the family's request there was no service. Arrangements by Pinette, Dillingham and Lynch Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

**PATCHETT-CRAIG,
CHRISTY ANN (1957-2021)**

Christy Ann Craig, (née Patchett) born 3 August 1957, died 18 October 2021. Christy is survived by her husband, Harold Dean Craig, her 3 brothers, Dennis Joseph Patchett, Dan Jon Patchett, Dale Alan Patchett, two daughters and sons-in-law, Tonya Lin and William Flood Jr; Heidi Jo and Bruce Dale Hammonds Jr; six grandchildren, Michael Alan Holt, Kayla Michelle Wolff, Adrian James Isaac Holt, Austin Ray Holt, Crysta Raven Perry and Jacob Andrew Wolff. Christy will be reunited with her deceased parents, Donald Joseph Patchett and Shirley Ann (née **Curwick**) Patchett and her son, John Joseph Wolff. Graveside service was held on 22 October 2021 at County Line Cemetery near Creal Springs, Illinois. Arrangements by Parker-Reedy Funeral Home in West Frankfort.

**PATCHETT, DAN J.
(1954-2022)**

Dan J. Patchett, 67, of St. Anne, Ill., died 23 January 2022 in Kankakee. Born on 9 December 1954, in Kankakee, he was the son of Donald and Shirley (**Curwick**) Patchett. On 26 May 1973, he married Nora Etzel in Herscher. Dan owned and operated D&N Patchett Enterprise for 40 years. He leaves to mourn his loving wife, Nora and four children, Beth (Steve Robbins) Patchett, Keith (Debbi) Patchett, Lucas (Alicia) Patchett, and Andrea (Mike) White; grandchildren, Gage (Loni)

Denham, Amanda Daily, Hunter (Mitch) Michal, Austin Patchett and Wyatt Battermann; nine great-grandchildren; brothers, Dennis (Rita) Patchett, and Dale (Diana) Patchett. Preceding him in death were his parents; his sister, Christy Patchett-Craig, and a grandson, Cullen White. Funeral service was on 31 January 2022 at Jensen Funeral Home, Kankakee, followed by burial in Kankakee Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Aroma Township.

**PELLETIER, MARCO
(1955-2022)**

At home in Beauport, Quebec, on 14 February 2022, at 66, died Marco Pelletier, husband of Lucie Kirouac (daughter of Gabriel Kirouac **GFK 00541** and the late Jeannine Simard). He was the son of the late Charlotte Plante and the late Lucien Pelletier. Besides his wife, he leaves to mourn his son Maxime Pelletier, his daughter Anne-Marie Pelletier (Yannick Paradis), his grandchildren: Marc-Olivier, Ariane and Amélia Paradis; his brothers: Luc Pelletier (Muguette Langlois) and Michel Pelletier; his father-in-law, Gabriel Kirouac (the late Jeannine Simard); his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Julie Kirouac (Mario Simard), Lyne Kirouac (Normand Laplante), Rachel Kirouac (Guy Couture), Yves Kirouac (Lucie Paré), Rémi Kirouac (Édith Fontaine); and many relatives. A memorial ceremony was held on 6 March 2022, at the Saint-Charles Funeral Centre in Quebec City.

**ROBICHAUD-KIROUAC,
IRÈNE (1932-2022)**

It is with sorrowful hearts, that we announce the passing of our mother, Irene Kirouac, on 25 February 2022 at St. Boniface Hospital, Manitoba, from lung cancer. Her legacy continues through her remaining children, Fernie Jr, Linda and Christine. Five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren were also fortunate enough to experience her generosity, optimism and love up to her death. A proud Acadian born in New Brunswick 26 March 1932,

Irene was bred and fed by the sea, but settled in Winnipeg with her Montreal born husband Fernie Sr. (**GFK 00680**) in 1966, where they committed their lives to their French restaurant and raising children. Her husband died in 1990. A Funeral Mass for Irene was held on 3 March 2022 at St. John Brebeuf Church. ***She was the sister-in-law of the late Jean-Yves Kirouac (1925-2006), KFA board member 1992-2002 and president 2001-2002.***

**VILLENEUVE, JEAN-MARIE
(1924-2021)**

On 7 December 2021, died at home at 97, Jean-Marie Villeneuve, widower of Jeannine Larouche. He was the son of Marie-Anne Gauthier and François Villeneuve, and the grandson of Marie Kirouac (**GFK 02480**) and Wilfrid Villeneuve. Funeral was on 11 December 2021 at Saint-Honoré Church in Chicoutimi. His ashes were interred in the parish cemetery. He was the brother of the late Paul-Émile (the late Gabrielle Tremblay), the late Léon-Maurice, the late Jeanne-D'Arc Belley), the late Georgette (the late Edmour Simard, the late Jean-Baptiste Tremblay), Rodrigue (Blandine Girard), the late Louis-Philippe (Bernadette Gaudreault) and the late Roland. He was the uncle of **Mercédès Bolduc and of her husband, Marc Villeneuve, both KFA Board members.**



**Our Deepest Condolences
to the
Bereaved Families**

GENEALOGY / THE READERS PAGE

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

With many thanks
François Kirouac

Question 737

What are the names of the parents of Romano Cadez, husband of Adrienne Jolicoeur, daughter of Eugène Jolicoeur and Rose-Délina Kirouac?

Question 738

What are the names of the parents of Roberta Trousse, wife of Narcisse Jolicoeur, son of Eugène Jolicoeur and Rose-Délina Kerouac?

Question 739

What is the first name of Anna Michaud's husband, whose surname is Aubin? Anna is the daughter of Georges Michaud and Rose-Anna Kirouac from La Broquerie, Manitoba, Canada. Also, what are the names of the parents of this Mr. Aubin?

Question 740

What are the names of the parents of Bernard Despins, first husband of Yvette Lord, daughter of Alphonse Lord and Marie Kirouac?

Question 741

What is the surname of the wife of Claude Catellier (1950-2007); her first name is Percis? Claude was the son of Althéa Lord, who was the daughter of Alphonse Lord and Marie Kirouac from La Broquerie, Manitoba, Canada.

Question 742

What is the surname of the husband of Jeannette Catellier; his first name was Jules? Jeannette is the daughter of Alphéda Lord, who was the daughter of Alphonse Lord and Marie Kirouac from La Broquerie, Manitoba, Canada.

Question 743

What is the surname of the husband of Denise Catellier; his first name is Brian? Denise is the daughter of Alphéda Lord, who was the daughter of Alphonse Lord and Marie Kirouac from La Broquerie, Manitoba, Canada.

Question 744

What are the names of the parents of Harold O'Connell, husband of Gertrude Fournier, daughter of Joseph Fournier and Ellen Kerouac? The couple was married on 5 September 1953 at Norwich, Connecticut.

Question 745

What are the names of the parents of Dave Molyneaux, husband of Rose-Marie Normandeau, daughter of Henri Normandeau and Gertrude Kirouac? The couple was married on 13 May 1989 at Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Question 746

What are the names of the parents of Don Campbell, husband of Renée Normandeau, daughter of Henri Normandeau and Gertrude Kirouac? The couple was married on 5 October 1985 at Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Question 747

What are the names of the parents of Melanie Atherly, wife of Richard Normandeau, son of Henri Normandeau and Gertrude Kirouac? The couple was married

on 19 December 1982 at Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Question 748

What are the names of the parents of Kendra Sutton, wife of Ronald Normandeau, son of Henri Normandeau and Gertrude Kirouac? The couple was married on 29 March 1980 at Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Question 749

What are the names of the parents of Edgar Robertson, husband of Rita Normandeau, son of Henri Normandeau and Gertrude Kirouac? The couple was married on 24 March 1974 at Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Question 750

What are the names of the parents of Michaël Stewart, husband of Rachelle Normandeau, daughter of Henri Normandeau and Gertrude Kirouac? The couple was married on 20 May 1972 at Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Question 751

What are the names of the parents of Annabelle Guillemette, wife of Thomas Sawyer, son of Charles Sawyer and Adèle Kirouac? The couple was married on 23 June 1930 in Maine, USA.

Question 752

What are the names of the parents of Katherine Jean, wife of Pacifique Sawyer, son of Charles Sawyer and Adèle Kirouac? The couple was married on 26 May 1930 in Maine, USA.

Question 753

What are the names of the parents of Joseph Biette, husband of Marie Helen Mutty, daughter of John Mutty and Adèle Kirouac?

Please send us your genealogical questions and we will try to find the answers. It will be a pleasure to print the answers in a future *Trésor*.

The Editor

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AND REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES/CORRESPONDENTS

CAN ALL BE REACHED AT THE FOLLOWING EMAIL ADDRESS:

associationfamilleskirouac@gmail.com

KIROUAC FAMILY ASSOCIATION PERMANENT COMMITTEES

LE TRÉSOR DES KIROUAC **Responsible: Marie Kirouac**

Writing and producing the bulletin
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Founded: 20 November 1978

Incorporated: 26 February 1986

Member of the

*Fédération des associations de familles
du Québec since 1983*

Canada Post

Mail agreement Number 40069967 for Mailing Publications

Return to the following address:

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4H5

IMPRIMÉ—PRINTED PAPER SURFACE

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KFA ANNUAL GATHERING

QUEBEC CITY, SATURDAY 13 AUGUST 2022

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