

Autumn 2023

Number 143

Le Trésor des Kirouac

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



At L'Islet, Quebec, on 9 September 2023, this souvenir photo of the participants at the annual gathering of the Kirouac Family Association was taken in front of the house where Élisabeth Chalifour was born; She was the wife of Simon-Alexandre Keroack. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)



Kirouac
Kirouack



Kérouac
Kérouack



Keroac
Keroack



Kéroack
Kyrouac



Breton
Burton



Curwack
Curwick



Le Trésor des Kirouac

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Table of Contents

Le Trésor des Kirouac n° 143

The President's Word	3
Our Younger Treasures	4
New Regional Representative	6
Ancestry of Nicole Kirouac	8
KFA Annual Gathering at L'Islet, 9 September 2023	9
Gathering's Financial Results	17
Two New Board Members	18
Ancestry of André and Serge Kirouac	19
American Visitors Touring Canada	20
Conrad, Conrad and I, at L'Islet, Talk by André Kirouac	21
Marie-Victorin 1981 Canadian Stamp First Day Cover Autographed for Mrs Eudora Kirouac-Laurin	29
Brother Marie-Victorin's Letter to Brother Roland Germain	30
Talk by Caroline Kirouac, Lt. Cdr. at L'Islet, 9 September 2023	31
President's Report for 2022	33
350 th Anniversary of L'Ancienne-Lorette	35
National Award for Marie-France Bornais	38
The Valley of the Saints in Brittany	39
Kyrourac Family Reunion in Bourbonnais, Illinois, Saturday, 5 August 2023	41
Homage to Roland Kirouac	43
In Memoriam	44
Genealogy & Readers' Page	46
KFA Board Members - 2023-2024	47
Regional Correspondants	47
Permanent Committee Members	47

The President's Word

Over the last years I have regularly underlined, in my annual report to the Annual General Meeting or in *Le Trésor*, the need for new "blood" on the Board, always hoping for new people, if possible from a younger generation, to sit on the KFA Board as well as the need for a regional representative for the two largest Quebec regions: Montreal-Outaouais-Abitibi as well as Mauricie--Bois-Francs--Eastern-Townships. So you can imagine how happy I am to say that, last September, my double call was finally heard.

Indeed, as you will read in the following pages, at our Annual General Meeting on 9 September 2023, two new Board members were elected, and a "cousin" accepted to be the Regional Representative for both large orphan regions.

First Meeting of the New Board

On 14 October 2023, for the first time since 2009, there were nine members on the KFA Board; at long last the right number according to our bylaws. During that meeting, it was decided that the various tasks at hand would be re-allocated among the Board members when mandates and their pertinence are analyzed and determined. In the next issue of *Le Trésor*, we should be able to let you know what these changes are.

New Quebec "Loi 25"

This new Law 25 is a Quebec legislation modernizing the rules protecting information in the private sector. (22 September 2022).

According to this Act adopted a year ago, on 22 September 2022, all associations, including ours, must respect certain obligations.

First, associations must designate a person responsible for the protection of personal information and publish their title and contact information on the association's website and news bulletin. Personal data includes name, postal address, email and photo of Association's members. The KFA Board decided to give me this responsibility. However, rest assured that our Association never gives out and has never given out any such information without the prior consent of the person concerned.

This legislation does not apply to collecting, retaining, using or communicating genealogical data when rightly requested. However, you may have noticed that for many years we stopped publishing any precise info in our bulletin or on our website of a living person. We started doing this to prevent identity theft or facilitate it.

Of course, this new legislation will certainly have consequences as to how we publish the genealogical data accumulated over the past 45 years. Because society has changed so much since the KFA published its first genealogical dictionary in 1991, decisions will have to be made concerning the access to the accumulated data.

Membership Renewal

It is high time to renew your KFA membership, if you have not already done so, if only to make sure to receive every issue of *Le Trésor*. If you prefer and is easier for you, you can pay online using the link on the KFA Website. Remember that your contribution means a great deal, and is a real encouragement to those of us, volunteering our time and energy for our family association.



Photo: François Kirouac collection

François Kirouac

Where will we meet in 2024?

During our first meeting, the Board members also discussed where the 2024 gathering may be held. We are considering the Greater Montreal area, possibly on the south-shore. What about in Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville? It is a suggestion.

If you have any thoughts on the subject, please contact Mercedes Bolduc and Marc Villeneuve to let them know what you think.

At the end of 2023, I take this opportunity, in the President's Word, to wish you and yours, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Health, Happiness and Prosperity in 2024.



SEASON'S GREETINGS & HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024

Once again this year, **OUR YOUNGER TREASURES**, Alexandre de Kervoach's descendants, hope you enjoy a very special Holiday Season, and wish you a Happy New Year filled with **HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY!**



Éléna



Thomas



Helene



Leon

SEASON'S GREETINGS & HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024



Once again this year, **OUR YOUNGER TREASURES**, Alexandre de Kervoach's descendants, hope you enjoy a very special Holiday Season, and wish you a Happy New Year filled with **HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY!**



Selah, Elliana, Serena, Teddy, Kaiya, Silas and Sam at Cousin Camp

NICOLE KIROUAC - NEW REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

In L'Islet, on 9 September, Nicole Kirouac accepted to be the Regional Representative for Quebec's two largest regions: Montréal, Outaouais, Abitibi and Mauricie, Bois-Francs, Eastern Townships.

Wanting to know her better, we asked her to tell us about herself, her career and interests in life. We are very grateful that she has accepted a new responsibility and we wish her much satisfaction in her new functions.

*To complete what Nicole kindly wrote, we add some notes about her family. Some of you perhaps remember reading an article published in 2005 in **Le Trésor 81**, (pp.30-33), about her father, Gérard, who led an unusual and colourful life and travelled a great deal.*

The Editor

I was born in Quebec City in 1956 and spent part of my teenage years at Sept-Iles. Later my family went back south to live at L'Ancienne-Lorette where I completed my last year of high school with a major as a medical secretary. Then I started working. My first job was with the Province of Quebec Health Insurance Board, known as RAMQ.

I also discovered the art world, drawing and painting and had the chance to work at the Art Gallery of Quebec City's Museum of Fine Art. Afterwards, I was hired by the Montreal Conservatory of Music where I was responsible for college level students for a few years. Then I was transferred to Montreal's communication direction office of the provincial department of culture.

During my time in Montreal, I completed a bachelor's degree in art history and I started studying for a master's degree but have yet to finish it.

Later I was transferred to the CNESST* at the St-Hyacinthe office. I loved that work but for personal reason, I asked to be transferred to the Agricultural and Food Technology Institute (ITA) also in Saint-Hyacinthe. (*Work, equity, health and security provincial commission governing obligations and responsibilities in the workplace).

In March 1995, with my twin daughters, I came back to Quebec City to work at the *Syndicat de la fonction publique* (Public Sector Alliance) as an advisor in the department of work organization, then in the claims department and, finally, in the department of defence of the public sector .

I retired in 2011. During my first year "at home" I studied painting and drawing. I started working again but this time as an independent worker, doing medical transcription which I am still doing.

Recently, I started new art courses, watercolour and portrait painting at Laval University. Visual arts are a passion of mine. I also volunteer as a user representative with the Infection Prevention Committee of the Quebec Institute of Cardiology and Pneumology.



Nicole Kirouac, our new regional representative for the Montreal-Outaouais-Abitibi region, and the Mauricie--Bois-Francs-- Eastern-Townships region.

At L'Islet, it was the first time I attended a KFA annual general meeting.

I was glad to accept a mandate as Regional representative. I hope to contribute something to this wonderful association where I met exceptional people.

Nicole Kirouac
17 October 2023





Philippe-Eugène Kirouac (Nicole's great-grandfather) and his seven sons: left to right, front row: Conrad, Lauréat, Philippe-Eugène, Paul-Henri (grandfather of Nicole) and Georges. Standing: Yves (whose son, Alain, was one of the KFA's founding members), Jean-Charles and Roger. (Photo: Nicole Kirouac collection)



Photo: Nicole Kirouac collection

At left, Nicole Kirouac with two of her sisters, Johanne and France with their father, Gérard in 2005.



Nicole Kirouac and her father, Gérard, when he was interviewed by Michel Bornais and François Kirouac during Autumn 2005 in preparation for the article published in *Le Trésor* Number 81. (Photo: François Kirouac)

Ancestry of Nicole Kirouac

Generation 1

Alexandre de Kervoach
dit le Breton
circa 1702 - 1736

Cap-Saint-Ignace (Québec)
22 October 1732

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

Generation 2

Louis Kéroack
dit le Breton
1735 - 1779

Cap-Saint-Ignace (Québec)
11 January 1757

Catherine Miotot
(1739 - 1813)
(Joseph & Héléne Le Normand*)

Generation 3

Pierre Kéroack
(1777 - 1866)

Montmagny (Québec)
17 October 1797

Marie-Anne Joncas
(1775 - 1816)
(Charles & Marie-Magdeleine Baillargeon)

Generation 4

Louis-Grégoire Kérouac
(1801 - 1890)

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

Catherine Picard **
(1803 - 1878)
(Louis & Françoise Harnois)

Generation 5

François Kirouac
(1826 - 1896)

L'Anceinne-Borctte (Québec)
6 June 1848

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

Generation 6

Philippe-Eugène Kirouac
(1866 - 1948)

Québec (Québec)
24 May 1897

Georgiana Poitras
(1874 - 1951)
(Zéphirin & Henriette Gamzeau)

Generation 7

Paul-Henri Kirouac
(1903 - 1968)

Québec (Québec)
17 July 1928

Cécile Laguzex
(1904 - 1986)
(Arthur & Maria Boucher)

Generation 8

Gérard Kirouac
(1933 - 2015)

Lévis (Québec)
8 October 1955

Louise Poulin
(1917 - 1982)
(Norbert & Rose-Alma Pomerleau)

Generation 9

Nicole Kirouac

* Le Normand dit Jorign
** des trois maisons dit Picard

KIROUAC FAMILY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION

L'Islet-sur-Mer, 9 September 2023

by Mercédès Bolduc

At L'Islet-sur-Mer, on a sunny Saturday, 9 September 2023, we gathered for the KFA annual reunion. It was so good to welcome everyone after a four-year involuntary pause.

As cousins walked in the Village Hall, a slideshow lovingly mounted by André Kirouac, enabled everyone to see photos of former gatherings. Obviously, all enjoyed it as it brought back many fond memories.

Our annual general meeting started right on time and proceeded speedily. It was an agreeable surprise to welcome two new Board members. First time since 2009 that all Board positions are filled. We thanked André and Serge Kirouac for their implication that, without doubt, will make a significant and appreciated difference.

Before lunch, to mark the 45th Anniversary of our family association and our 40th KFA annual gathering we raised our glasses of Breton Cider to friendship between cousins.

After a lovely meal, we paid homage to Marie Lussier Timperley who does so much work for the KFA particularly as translator of *Le Trésor*. A member since 1980, she was at L'Islet for the first KFA gathering, also a KFA Board member during many years. The Board members decided of a common accord to grant her a KFA life membership to show their gratitude and presented her with an appreciation certificate. Our congratulations to Marie who reached her 80th birthday this summer. As she points out, she is now embarking on her fifth 20-year period. Happy Birthday, Marie!



Mercédès Bolduc, who is responsible with her husband, Marc Villeneuve, of organizing our KFA gatherings, sitting at the registration desk at L'Islet on 9 September 2023. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)



The KFA president raising a glass with two of the "cousins" taking part in our annual gathering, Daniel Welt and his spouse, Carole Roy. (Photo: Hélène Kirouac)



François Kirouac, KFA president, presenting Marie Lussier Timperley with a Certificate of Appreciation for the colossal amount of work done over many years. She was also made a KFA life-member as voted by the KFA Board members.

Behind her, seated, Renald Kérouack, and standing, Mercédès Bolduc and her husband, Marc Villeneuve. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

François, the man wearing many hats, well deserving of our gratitude and congratulations for the colossal work he does on top of the genealogical data accumulated over the past 45 years, was presented with a special gift from the Board members to thank him for his tireless dedication to our family since the foundation of the KFA and as president for the past eighteen years. Thank you very much, François.

André Kirouac, former director of the Quebec Naval Museum, gave the first talk, entitled: *Plants, rocks, and legends! The story of Marie-Victorin's visit to L'Islet in 1916*. An unusual story, because not a single mention, note, or photo has been found indicating that Marie-Victorin visited any Kirouacs in L'Islet at the time!

Afterwards, André's four granddaughters unveiled a plaque in memory of their many times great-grandmother Élisabeth Chalifour, wife of Simon-Alexandre Keroack, the elder son of our Breton ancestor. Alice, Juliette, Arielle and Lexie are descended from both sides of the family, through their paternal grandmother they are descended from Élisabeth Chalifour, and through their paternal grandfather from Simon-Alexandre Keroack. This memorial plaque will be placed in the Sailors' Chapel at L'Islet-sur-Mer next spring, in 2024.



L'Islet, 9 September 2023, André Kirouac reading a text written by Brother Marie-Victorin during his talk.
(Photo: Véronique Bergeron)



Unveiling of the commemorative plaque in honour of Élisabeth Chalifour and Simon-Alexandre Keroack on 9 September 2023 at the Village Hall in L'Islet. Left to right: Étienne Kirouac holding Lexie; Arielle (Étienne's daughter, Juliette (Philippe's daughter) and Alice (Étienne's daughter). at right, the KFA president, François Kirouac. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

Robert Kirouac gave the second talk. He shared some childhood memories particularly what he remembers about his grandfather Arthur who owned the Hôtel de Kérouartz that eventually became a general store, as well as memories of his very talented aunt Yvette who did some wonderful charcoal drawings. Robert presented two of them to the KFA.

They say, never two without three, true again, there was a third speaker. We walked to the Sailors' Chapel where Caroline Kirouac, Lieutenant Commander in the Naval Reserve of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), explained her role as a Training Development Officer (TDO) in Air Requirements' Training & Simulation team. She talked about her personal path to reach this new challenge. Her professional career monopolizes most of her time, but family life always takes priority.

From the Chapel we crossed the road to visit the over 300-year-old house where Élisabeth Chalifour was born. The house still belongs to family members. Built in 1681, as the plaque shows, the owners' name often changed but the house always belonged to descendants, members of the same family, even today's owners who so kindly invited us to



Photo: Pierre Kirouac

Robert Kirouac, born in L'Islet, gave the second talk. He shared some memories of his grandfather, Arthur, who owned the *Hôtel de Kerouartz*, that later became a general store. He also talked about Arthur's youngest daughter, Yvette who, in 1949, went to Brittany to see the Marquis... de Kerouartz! While there, the talented Yvette did some charcoal drawings of the Manor. Robert gave two of her drawings to the KFA.

visit their home. For our benefit, they exhibited some old notaries' deeds found in the house on which the name Kirouac appears.

Each talk was shorter than expected! This is so unusual, it is worth boasting about! Did we want to hear more? Possibly, and for those of you who missed the talks, you can read two of them in the present *Trésor*.

The day was coming to an end, so we walked back to the village hall expressing our gratitude for a perfect day, wish each other well and reiterate how much we hope to meet again next year.

Au revoir and see you at our next family gathering in 2024!



Caroline Kirouac in L'Islet's Sailors' Chapel giving her talk on 9 September 2023. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)



Mr. Germain Pelletier, Mayor of L'Islet, proud to welcome the Kirouacs in his town. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)



Mercédès Bolduc presenting a special bouquet to Marie Lussier Timperley to mark her 80th birthday, or as Marie prefers to say, entering her fifth twenty-year period! (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)



Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

Céline Kirouac, our devoted secretary "by interim" for well over twelve years, greatly helped organizing our gathering, just about to introduce our Master of Ceremonies, Sylvie Houde.

Again, this year, Sylvie Houde is our Master of Ceremonies. At the Sailors' Chapel, on 9 September 2023, introducing our next speaker, Lieutenant Commander Caroline Kirouac. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)





Caroline Kirouac with her uncle, Jean-Louis K rouac, and her parents, Suzanne St-Pierre and Conrad Kirouac.
(Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

They flew in from Illinois: Greg Kyrouac, our Regional Representative for Central USA, and his wife, Nancy Beckman-Kyrouac, smiling to the camera with a faithful participant, Gemma Morin-Keroack from Dorval, a Montreal suburb. Gemma will blow 98 candles on her birthday cake in December. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)



Some dedicated attendees with a couple taking part in a KFA reunion for the first time, from left to right: Marie Kirouac, Daniel Welt and his spouse, Carole Roy, Luc Pelletier and his spouse, H  l  ne Kirouac, and Pierre Kirouac, le brother of Marie and H  l  ne.

(Photo: Pierre Kirouac collection)

Some of the "cousins" at the reunion on 9 September 2023 at L'Islet: from left to right: Chantal Girouard and her sister, Danielle Girouard-Sauvé, both are great-nieces of Brother Marie-Victorin, Raymonde Kérouac-Harvey, author of the 1980 Album, Caroline Kirouac, Carole Roy, Daniel Welt, Sylvie Houde, Marie-Michèle Caouette, Jean-Louis Kérouac, Suzanne St-Pierre and her husband, Conrad Kirouac. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)



From left to right: André Kirouac, Robert Kirouac, France Gauthier, Gemma Morin-Keroack, Nicole Kirouac, Roger Launier, Marie Lussier Timperley, Lucille Kirouac, Nancy Beckman-Kyrouac, Greg Kyrouac and Serge Kirouac. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

From left to right: Juliette Kirouac, Alice Kirouac, Lexie Kirouac sitting on Marie-Laurence Kirouac and Arielle Kirouac.

(Photo: Pierre Kirouac)





After four long years without being able to meet, everyone was so happy to attend this reunion, and renew friendships. In front, Lucille Kirouac discussing with Serge Kirouac. Seated behind, Marie Lussier Timperley talking with Roger Launier, Nicole Kirouac and Gemma Morin-Keroack. Standing behind, Mercédès Bolduc-Villeneuve and André Kirouac.

(Photo: Véronique Bergeron)

The house where Elisabeth Chalifour was born on 12 November 1739; the house is on the main road in L'Islet, at 161, Chemin des pionniers Est (Pioneers Road East)



SAILORS CHAPEL, L'ISLET

Next spring in 2024, the commemorative plaque in honour of Élisabeth Chalifour will be placed in the Sailors' Chapel. This is the plaque that was unveiled at L'Islet on 9 September 2023. The Chapel is listed in Quebec Cultural Heritage Directory¹.

Built in 1835 in the neo-classical style, the chapel was restored in 1935, for its centennial. It is located on Route 132, less than half a mile east from the Notre Dame-de-Bon-Secours Parish Church.

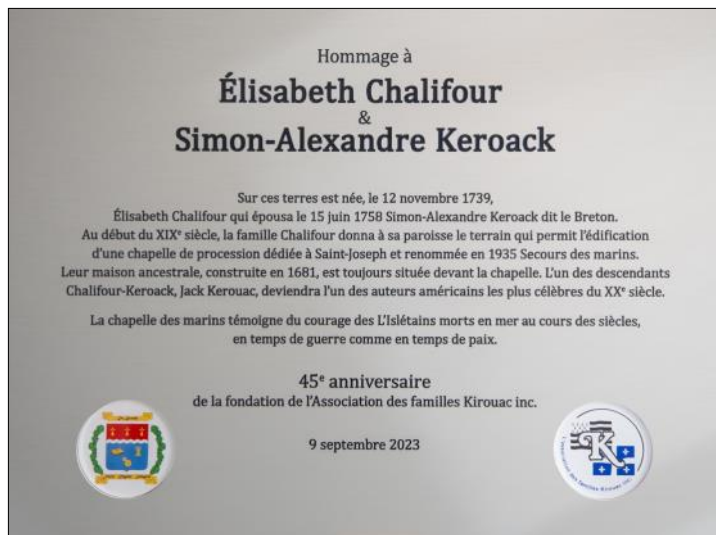
The Sailors' Chapel is located across the road from the house where was born Élisabeth Chalifour, the wife of Simon-Alexandre Keroack, eldest son of our ancestor, Alexandre de Kervoach and his wife, Louise Bernier.

In the photo to the left, some people walking towards the chapel to hear Caroline Kirouac give her talk.

(Photo: Pierre Kirouac)



¹Source: <https://www.patrimoine-culturel.gouv.qc.ca/rpcq/detail.do?methode=consulter&id=92763&type=bien>



Plaque unveiled on 9 September, 2023 at L'Islet.
(Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

Homage to Élisabeth Chalifour & Simon-Alexandre Keroack

On this lot was born on 12 November 1739, Élisabeth Chalifour. On 15 June 1758 she married Simon-Alexandre Keroack dit le Breton. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the Chalifour family gave a plot especially to build a processional chapel dedicated to Saint Joseph. In 1935, it was renamed *Secours des marins* (sailors' saviour). The ancestral house built in 1681, is still standing across the road from the chapel. One of the descendants of the Chalifour-Keroack family branch is Jack Kerouac, who became one of the most famous American writers of the twentieth century.

The Sailors Chapel is a testimony to the courage of the L'Isletains who died at sea during the past centuries in times of war and in times of peace.

45th Anniversary of the Foundation of
the Kirouac Family Association Inc.
9 September 2023

Text written on the plaque in homage to
Élisabeth Chalifour and Simon-Alexandre Keroack.



Plaque placed on the house where Élisabeth Chalifour was born in 1739.
(Photo: Véronique Bergeron)

The KFA president with the current owners of the house where Élisabeth Chalifour was born in 1739, Réjean Lizotte and his wife, Suzanne Caron, who is a direct descendant of the very first couple who owned the house, François Guyon and Marie Clotus. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)





Members of the new KFA Board elected at the annual general meeting on 9 September at L'Islet. From left to right, first row: Marie Kirouac, François Kirouac, Céline Kirouac and André Kirouac; second row: Renald Kérouack and Mercédès Bolduc-Villeneuve; third row: Serge Kirouac, René Kirouac and Marc Villeneuve. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

KIROUAC FAMILY GATHERING

L'Islet-sur-Mer 9 September 2023

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Mercédès Bolduc, 13 September 2023

REVENUE	
Anonymous gift	\$40.00
Exchange on US money	\$35.19
Registration Fees	\$2,320.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,395.19
EXPENSES	
Meal (\$38.41 per person)	\$1,613.10
Gift to Marie Lussier Timperley	\$80.00
Table decorations	\$44.84
Cider and wine	\$92.46
Wine for the meal (six bottles)	\$52.95
Morning snacks	\$26.41
Tablecloths	\$41.38
Location of Village Hall with projector	\$183.96
Location of Sailors' Chapel	\$114.98
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,250.08
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$145.11
Amount given to the KFA	\$145.11

TWO NEW KFA BOARD MEMBERS TWO KIROUAC BROTHERS

*A*t our Annual General Meeting on 9 September 2023, Serge Kirouac was elected a board member. In Autumn 2020, we first introduced Serge in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 134. A streamlined version of his professional life follows. He obtained a bachelor's degree in administration, with a major in marketing. At the present, he is the General Director of the Home Services Co-op for the greater Montmagny. Since 2021, he has been a municipal councillor at L'Islet.

Previously he also worked for Plastique Gagnon during six years, a Saint-Jean-Port-Joli company. Afterwards, he joined the cooperative world. For over 27 years, he was a manager at Promo-Plastik, a workers' co-op. He was also a Board member of the Regional Development Co-op for the Québec-Appalaches region, for fourteen years, president of L'Islet's Health Co-op, president of "Le Réseau" a federation of work co-op; president of the Board of Caisse Desjardins (Bank) at L'Islet and president of the board of the Chaudière-Appalaches Regional Social Economy.

We wish him satisfaction and pleasure in his new functions on the KFA Board.

François Kirouac, for the Board Members



Serge Kirouac,
new Board Member of the
Kirouac Family Association
(Photo: Stéphanie Genest)



André Kirouac
(Photo credit: Région Bretagne 2017)

*O*n 9 September 2023, at our Annual General Meeting held in L'Islet, André Kirouac was re-elected to the KFA Board. André was a Board member from 2014 to 2017, responsible for the social media. He is coming back with lots of new ideas. In 1996, he oversaw the organizing committee for the KFA gathering held at Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard, a picturesque village near L'Islet where many Kirouac families still live.

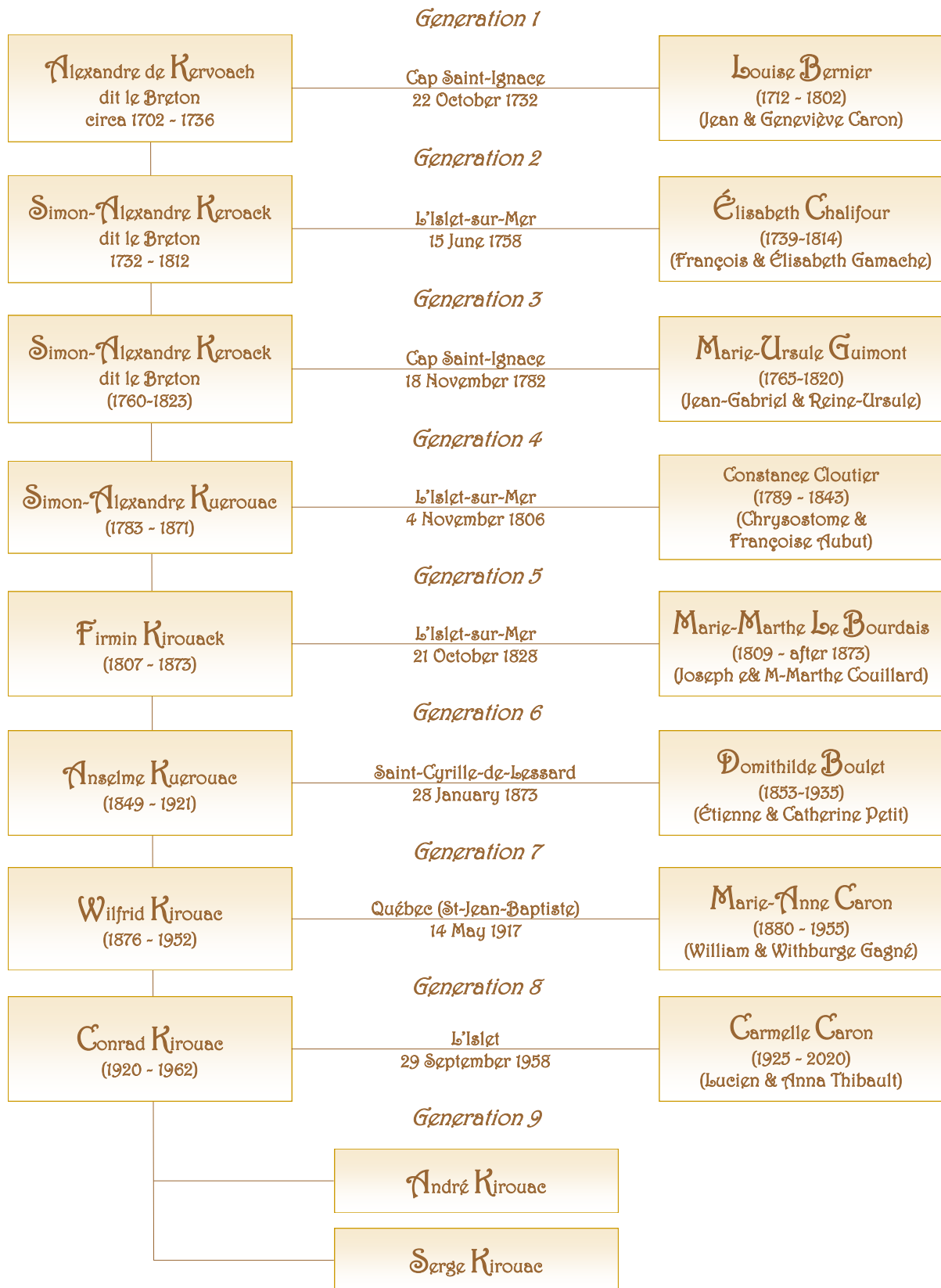
He had an interesting and varied career: From 1977 to 1986, he directed various projects at the *Bernier Maritime Museum* at L'Islet-sur-Mer. In 1986-1988 he worked at the *Interpretation Centre of the Seigneurie des Aulnaies* at Saint-Roch-des-Aulnaies. From 1988 to 1994, he was project director of Quebec City *Musée de la civilisation*. In 1994-1996, he planned and managed various projects including that of the *Basque Adventure in North America at Trois-Pistoles*. From 1997 to 2021 he was the Director of Quebec City's Naval Museum.

In the previous issue of *Le Trésor*, number 142, you read his captivating article about his sojourn in Brittany in May 2023, entitled: *Jack and I Visiting Brittany*, which garnered lots of positive comments. André promises more texts, no doubt, just as fascinating.

Glad to see you back on "board", André.

François Kirouac, for the KFA Board Members

Ancestry of André and Serge Kirouac



AMERICAN VISITORS TOURING CANADA!



Visit to Longueuil to share a good meal with the oldest of our members, Gabrielle Hurtubise-Lafrenière. Gabrielle will celebrate her 105th birthday in December. We wish her a very happy birthday. Left photo: Greg Kyroutac, Nancy Beckman-Kyroutac and Gabrielle Hurtubise-Lafrenière. Right, at the restaurant: from left to right: Nancy Beckman-Kyroutac, Greg Kyroutac, Pierre Kiroutac, Gabrielle Hurtubise-Lefrenière and Marie-Andrée Lavigne-Kiroutac. (Photos: Pierre Kiroutac)



The 45-year history of our association has created over the years wonderful friendships between the participants of our annual gatherings.

Greg and Nancy continued their Canadian tour, visiting Nathalie Kéroack and Cyril Worth in Sydney, Nova Scotia. The two couples are pictured in front of the world's largest Celtic fiddle erected in Sydney Harbour.



Before their visit to Gabrielle in Longueuil, they stopped in Quebec City. From left to right: Yolande Genest, Nancy Beckman-Kyroutac, Michel Bornais and Greg Kyroutac.

(Photo: Greg Kyroutac collection)

(Photo: Greg Kyroutac collection)

CONRAD, CONRAD AND I AT L'ISLET

A SUBLIME MISUNDERSTANDING!

ANDRÉ KIROUAC

AUTUMN 2023

In memory of Sylvie Chabot (1959-1987)

For those of you who know me, you know how much I love to tell stories, closely bordering on legends. It is always based on truth that I love to sprinkle it with some wonder. Today, I invite you to follow me along one of my favourite stories. Everything is true; almost! Don't worry, I will let you know when I dive into various hypotheses, and you will see, that they will remain just that, hypotheses. Sometimes, you cannot stop imagining things as it makes a factual tale far more interesting.

Are we going on a footpath today? I would rather say, on a trail or better, on rails, train rails to be precise, roads and streets, between Quebec City and Montreal, between L'Islet and St-Cyrille-de-Lessard. Who will come with us in this centennial journey starting in the middle of the 1910s until 1979? Conrad Kirouac the famous Brother Marie-Victorin himself, and Conrad Kirouac, the father I never knew, and myself, modest passenger travelling between them.

Choo Choo... the train is leaving the station.

In the late 1970s, simply mentioning one's desire to teach history attracted negative comments because there were too many teachers in the Quebec educating system. Imagine what it felt like to end up as a professional working in a museum, and a maritime one at that. Miracles were more tempting on the job market.

Thus, I had to find a new passion! On my mother's side, follow the old farmer's gene attached to the land? Or uncle Maurice, forest engineer? No, I opted for the other Maurice Kirouac; passionate about music and nature, he founded the Métabetchouan Music Camp; he was a member of L'Ordre des 21¹. A small voice was telling me that I would love to become a landscape architect in spite of my killing allergies to grass and to so many other similar plants.

In September 1979, researches and interviews lead me to the planning and landscape architecture Department at Montreal University. The classes were held in an old college where rainwater seeped in from windows and ceilings. Just right for architecture classes; don't you think? Nevertheless, those were wonderful years that gave me great opportunities for meeting interesting people. Of course, I did not complete that course and museology caught up with me; nonetheless, my time in Montreal will leave some unexpected and permanent imprint on me. What exactly, you may ask?

It all started by a sublime misunderstanding.

Of course the Montreal Botanical Garden was and is the main place

¹ Maurice Kirouac was a member of the Ordre des 21 (order of the 21) from 1985 until his death in 1991. He held seat number 7; he founded the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean Musical Camp and was director of the Board for over twenty years.



André Kirouac during his talk on Conrad Kirouac, Brother Marie-Victorin, on 9 September 2023 in L'Islet. (Photo: Véronique Bergeron)

where students do their internship. Same for me. No exception. I believe that Quebec's native trees were perfectly suited for me: *Quercus rubrum*, *Betula pendula*, *Acer sacharum* and others. That forced me into a crazy overnight schedule. It meant leaving my flat in Côte-des-Neiges (near Montreal University) around 8 p.m. A long walk to the underground's green line, to reach the botanical garden and going back home the next morning, catching the first underground train around 5 a.m. Thank goodness, I did not know that before

enrolling in the internship programme. I had no choice, I had to do it and walk up and down the arboretum and the greenhouses with Friedrich, our favourite professor and my friend, Sylvie.

Just imagine! On an early morning autumn drizzle, at the corner of Sherbrooke and Pie IX Boulevard (Pope Pius IX), we walk through the gates facing the red-brick administrative building. Peacock proud, we walk up the main alley between groves already changing colours, turning from green to orange, and many healthy grass sections. On the right, well framed by hedges, a statue. That of an ecclesiastic, the garden's founder, brother Marie-Victorin. He is holding a flower; his head is slightly turned to the right, it seems that he is telling me to read what is written on the base of the statue. *Frère Marie-Victorin, 1885-1944, Conrad Kirouac.*

What? Papa? What an ignorant I was, I did not know the family name of the most famous Quebec religious brother! Friedrich, wearing his eternal black coat and his captain's cap, smiled. As for Sylvie, ever smiling in her navy corduroy pant-and-vest outfit, this time she was giggling.

And me! Who am I between these two? A lonely vagabond lost in a city far too large for him and sneezing a thousand times a day. Thank goodness, Sylvie is there, as well as "the crab", a friend from the Gaspé Peninsula, and another colleague, called André, who will become famous for creating the Samuel-de-Champlain long promenade along the River in Quebec City. Claude Cormier (1960-2023), who left an indelible mark on Quebec scene and scenery wherever he went.

On that day in 1980, I am still very far from all that. In a few minutes, at the heart of the botanical garden, I know that I will not be able to escape the comparison and some teasing. We enter the great hall and are welcomed by one of the directors. If I remember well, the first thing we had to do was to give our name and receive our intern badge.

I walk up, say my name: KIROUAC, first name: André; father's name: CONRAD.

Silence... the security guard looks at me: NO JOKE, PLEASE.

Well, it is not a joke, not yet anyway. I am asked to keep this information for myself at the present time. New smile from Professor Friedrich. Surprised looks from those present. Did Sylvie nudge me then? I don't remember. Then, in a small room with a large table, and smelling of damp earth in the air, is held the first reunion. We are behind the greenhouses. At the end,



Statue of Conrad Kirouac (Brother Marie-Victorin) at the Montreal Botanical Garden. Photo taken at the Kirouac gathering on 9 September 2017. (Photo: François Kirouac)



Photo: André Kirouac collection

Conrad Kirouac (1920-1962)
father of André Kirouac

Friedrich asks me if I would like to meet the botanical garden's director, Mr. Pierre Bourque. Why not? *Just me? Yes, only me.*

In the mean time, a messenger had run to the director's office announcing that his new intern was the son of Conrad Kirouac. Believe it or not? Impossible! This kind of fluke happens only once.

We enter into the sanctuary, a very large office, books everywhere, a cluttered work table and another one where plans are spread out, others rolled up. I meet Director Bourque who has no idea that one day he will be the mayor of Montreal. Impressive man, tall, strongly built, straight gaze, I perceive his aura as saying *I am busy, what is going on, why are you bothering me!*

He had just been told that the son of Conrad Kirouac would be working for a few months in his garden. Without hesitation, he says that such an occasion is rather rare so I will be his intern. At night, I will edit his plans; he will put "Xs" everywhere I have to erase certain lines using his brand new electrical eraser. Most of all, I will walk up and down the greenhouses and offices with him. He will show me where he has hidden his bonsai collection to be eventually exhibited in his future Japanese garden. From then on and for ever after I will know how to prune bonsais. Thank you **Conrad and Conrad!**

I will not bother you by describing my nights and days, but only conclude by reminding you that theology students study the BIBLE but for us, our BIBLE is called **La Flore laurentienne** (i.e. Laurentian Flora).

I could not resist the chance to learn about *Juncus balticus littoralis*, the special grass that grows on the tidal flats at L'Islet; so often I have seen the old men from the village scythe them all. I did not know at the time that Marie-Victorin had been there; nor that, during the war, sailors and aviators' life vests were stuffed with milkweed. That plant and many other grasses are far more than ornaments. By the way, if you are planting grasses in your yards nowadays, it is due to Friedrich Oehmichen, who introduced them in 1980 at the **Montreal Floralties***. They became popular then. Besides looking great they are also very useful to stabilize the ground and the *Ammophila arenaria* are well suited to sandy dunes. Grasses are essential for the environment, for fauna and flora. The planet's survival depends on grasses. Sometimes, Marie-Victorin taught the words that I remember to this day even when I am walking up and down the Cresmina dunes in Portugal. (*8th official international horticultural exposition held in spring & summer 1980.)

Nevertheless, the call from the maritime museum was stronger than ever. In 1982, exit landscape architecture, aurevoir Friedrich and adieu Sylvie who spent too few years on this earth (1960-1987).

Everything happens for a reason. How many times have we heard this maxim? Do we ever check if it is true? My time in Montreal forever affected me and in more ways than one, contrary to the notes on Pierre Bourque's plans.



Pierre Bourque chatting with Gilles Vincent, Director of the Montreal Botanical Garden, at the launch of André Bouchard's book, *Marie-Victorin à Cuba (Marie-Victorin in Cuba)*, 5 November 2007. On the right of the photo is Lucie Jasmin, who is responsible for our *Marie-Victorin Observatory*. (Photo: François Kirouac)

Marie-Victorin, to me a philosopher as well as a botanist, accompanied me on the bus to L'Islet and the museums. He guided me when I planned the restructuring of the gardens at the Seigneurie des Aulnaies (website), or landscaping around my homes or imagining the landscape for the *Parc de l'aventure Basque* at Trois-Pistoles. Many years later, Marie-Victorin invited me to discover his life as a learned scientist when I re-read the forewords to the **Flore laurentienne** and two other books that helped me discover and

understand the thinking of this remarkable philosopher.

On my bookshelves, I have always kept a copy of the **Flore laurentienne**. I own the 1995 edition, the latest that includes the forewords from the two previous editions, 1935 and 1964. In 1935, Marie-Victorin wrote the foreword introducing his flora. In 1995, Pierre Dansereau (1911-2011) wrote the foreword.

The many hundred pages of this fundamental volume of our scientific culture did not impress me by their detailed descriptions of various plants. No, for me its importance was somewhere else, in its prescient preface. A passage that could have been written this year as we live through deregulated climate change, bloody fratricidal wars and social isolation. In 1935, Conrad said this to us:

Looking at today's distressing spectacles, looking at the disarray of the world, many mature minds wonder whether we may have gone astray in forcing on the brains of our children and young people an exclusive regime of blackened paper, does not true culture and true humanism demand a kind of return to the Earth, where the Antaeus that we are, by regaining contact with Nature who is our mother, would find the strength to live, to struggle, to flap our wings towards rejuvenated ideals! In the midst of this anxiety, we turn back to the Past, from which rises an immortal voice, the voice of one who believed that complete science and perfect love are one and the same, the voice of that astonishing man who could at the same time rise to the highest mathematical speculations and dream of the Christ of the Last Supper.

Everything is there, nothing to be added, except the other foreword found in his book entitled **Récits laurentiens** (Laurentian Tales).

Marie-Victorin wrote the book but left Abbé Ferland introduce it by dedicating it to:

To the youth, sensitive and avid to know the meaning of things, these Laurentian Sketches bring a fresh revelation. An art nourished by strong images and striking reality will offer them panoramic views of unsuspected sceneries where the fearless gestures of the pioneers give a human face to working the land away from the prestige of the noisy cities. — March 1919.

In **Récits laurentiens**, I read one story entitled *Le Rosier de la Vierge*. Conrad retells one of the stories his grandmother from L'Ancienne-Lorette used to tell about a rosebush that grew at the foot of the Virgin's alcove at the front of the parish church. Marie-Victorin details the origin of the statue now kept in the chapel of the Wendat community also known as Huron Community. He describes the very first rosebush: *It was a very ordinary birth, no clerck, no notary to register the birth of the church's rosebush*¹. In 1838, the Virgin's statue occupied a very visible alcove on the church's facade. Over the years, its roots and branches reached the feet of the statue. With time, it created a problem as the roots damaged the mortar between the stones. A mason was called to fix the problem and came with an apprentice. A ladder was put up, the mason climbed but as he reached the alcove, suddenly some rongs broke. The mason fell and broke a leg. Dislodging the rosebush was later attempted many times but to no avail. The last man who hoped to cut the rosebush saw his house go up in flames as he was climbing towards the Virgin's alcove. Finally, in 1907, when a new church was constructed, the rosebush was moved. But before moving it, many cuttings were distributed to the villagers who planted them in front of their homes.

After reading this story, I no longer consider Marie-Victorin only a



Brother Marie-Victorin in 1910

great scientist but also a poet and a humanist, environmentalist and sociologist. In addition, my growing interest brought me closer to a totally unsuspected destination.

One day I bought the 1946 edition of a book entitled **Croquis laurentiens** (Laurentian Sketches). Looking up the table of contents, Chapter 4 included two surprises. A text about **Lake Trois-Saumons** and one about **L'Islet's Rocher Panet** (Panet Rock). So I started reading at page 63!

In the Laurentian Sketches, the foreword is by one Ernest Bilodeau who wrote: *In 1920, during the, Holy Week, ... amusing wink.* Conrad, the brother, tells the stories and legends of villages situated along the River.

Conrad, the "papa", my father, will come into the world a few weeks later.

Marie-Victorin's pen is agile, clear, limpid. Just like the words he uses

¹ Brother Marie-Victorin, F.E.C., **Récits laurentiens**, *Le rosier de la Vierge*, F.E.C. Edition, 1942, page 23.

to describe Lake Trois-Saumons. The lake is long, very long, five miles at least. It ends far to the east, and its clear water falls into a rapid cascade. [...] On both sides of Lake Trois-Saumons, gently undulating hills overlap and pursue each other like long petrified waves and, suddenly, it looks like a giant camping ground for an army of hemlocks and spruces.²

Brother Marie-Victorin describes the countryside like a naturalist, almost like a painter who knows how to paint as well as the environment in front of him. He takes us to the village of Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, to the Gaspé manor house and lists the nice and soft names of the cottages, here are the names of the cottages he discovers: *Marie-Joseph*, *Sans-Bruit* (noiseless), *Mon'Repos* (my resting place), *Fleur du Lac* (Lake flower)... He ends with a tirade about the dragonfly he observes: *Life is everywhere; life has everything. Man goes through life without seeing it, he tramples it, crushes it with his herls; he runs along, pursuing some wild dream, without listening to, hearing old nature's huge invigorating song.*

I often went to the lake when I was young. I still go to cycle around the lake Trois-Saumons. What would I give to be able to paint with words this magnificent panorama that I have admired since I was very young when, on Sundays, we used to go to *cousin Henri's cottage*. We tried scooping up crayfish with our small fishing nets, we chased tamias, we froze our feet in the lake before crossing it in an outboard-motorboat, the noise was deafening and the pollution just as bad. This would be forbidden nowadays. At least, I hope so.

Unless I missed something as I read those pages, at the time I did not see that Marie-Victorin was talking about any events that took place in



Lake Trois-Saumons in 2022
(Photo: André Kirouac)

1916. Quite the opposite, nothing in the first edition published in 1920. I mistakenly thought he had come in my region in 1919. It is only much later that I discovered the truth, especially as the pages about Lake Trois-Saumons mean so much to me. Together we will go to the Panet Rock.

If Marie-Victorin was there only once, I can claim to have looked far more often for the devil's footsteps at the Panet Rock. The devil, nothing less. The famous brother went to L'Islet and talked about the old people he met and the legends he learned, particularly that of the Panet Rock, the best known.

In the 1700s, it was Jacques Panet, parish priest during fifty years, who left his mark, to say the least; he gave the village the only solid gold liturgical vessels found in Quebec. When was his name associated with a rock



The cross on top of the Panet Rock, installed around 1930. (Photo: Serge Kirouac)

² Brother Marie-Victorin, F.E.C, Croquis Laurentiens, Montreal, 1946, p.64-65.

formation in front of the rectory? No one knows; however, we know that his name was first attached to a legend, only in the early 1900s and written by J.-T. Jamnet.³

Marie-Victorin does not skimp on details. The girl who was demon-possessed finds refuge on the rock, the scared villagers, the courage of parish priest Panet who goes to her to chase the devil. The ground turning to liquid, the priest's feet petrified as that of the devil's, and a cane, even the dog's legs. Then a source, the witch's source appears, as a sign of the deliverance.

Beyond the legend, Conrad goes on the rock to see the imprints and the source. He writes that he had to face the sticky mud on the river bank. He said he was ashamed to doubt the belief of the villagers of L'Islet. The scientist cannot resist the chance to describe the Cambrian strata of Kamouraska made of quartzite, the inclination of the strata and folds where the water accumulates as the tide goes out gives the impression that a divine source appears. The footprints can be explained by the disappearance of dolomitic limestone inclusions. I leave it to you to understand what it is all about. I prefer, and by far, his conclusion; in his own words:

What is the point of going against the naïve beliefs that adds golden poetry to the crudeness of things, and softens the trivial bad taste left by life's events. Let's leave to the L'Isletains their source and their footprints: we have nothing to replace them. After all, is it not science that forever repeats itself? Isn't poetry, like youth, always right?

What else can I add, somewhere in me, I hoped that one day I would find out a bit more about Marie-Victorin's, Conrad Kirouac, visit in my region. It has taken me years before finding out more! Did the two Conrads ever cross path on the Transcontinental trains?

It took such a long time; it was only months and years later that I thought about this again. It is the fault of the Kirouac Family Association, and its president, François, who sent me a brick (volume) entitled, **Mon Miroir**, Marie-Victorin's journal covering the years 1903 to 1920.

You remember? 1920, the year my father, Conrad, was born. I mistakenly believed that the other Conrad had possibly paid a visit to the devil and the Parish priest Panet in the year 1919. Wrong year, in fact it was in August 1916, three years earlier. Finally I know now and my imagination happily carries me beyond Marie-Victorin's words.

Let's start with the beginning of his notes in his personal journal on 3 September 1916.

The month of August has gone, the holidays are over, tomorrow, my children (students) are coming back and I will be totally dedicated to them. I lived that last August away from myself. Classes ended on the 17th and that same day I left for Quebec City. I used that short holiday at L'Islet. From my short excursions, I remember the journey to Saint-Jean-Port-Joli and Saint-Roch-des-Aulnaies including a visit to the Gaspé manor house, to the witch's source, to the Verreault pine forest; my train trip to Saint-Cyrille and to Bras d'Apic on the Transcontinental; and especially the three days I spent at Lake Trois-Saumons, at the villa Sans-Bruit (noiseless). There I was with Brothers Ferdinand, Gervais and Nicephore. I will never forget our odyssey when our rowboat ended up at the bottom of the lake and walking down the mountain in pelting rain. My father drove me twice from Quebec City to L'Islet. Wonderful trip, splendid scenery. Nevertheless, this is not my cup of tea.

I never lived for so long away from my sphere. No correspondence, no visit from students. Perhaps this is an

essential condition for me to rest and I graciously accepted it and enjoyed it.

I could probably write a thesis based on these few lines; perorate on Marie-Victorin's difficulty to live out of his sphere and life interest. He mentions it twice to better underline, for himself, the exceptional character of the occasion. I could also say a lot about Marie-Victorin who always needed others to take his places whether by train or by car with his father. Or about how he is resigned to the need for rest, just like any human being consumed by a great passion, any passion.

Well, my purpose is different. It is to find indications that show a link between this Conrad before the other Conrad.

Let's start at Lake Trois-Saumons when he talks about his stay at the *Villa Sans-Bruit*. He wrote about it in **Récits Laurentiens** without saying that he stayed there. His description of the lake and its scenery is always very poetic in his writings, and that is very different from what he says in **Mon Miroir**, where he clearly writes that he was with three brothers and what he remembers is the rowboat outing and walking down the mountain under the rain.

I warned you at the beginning of this text that I like to add some hypotheses or conjectures!

His father, Cyrille, drove him twice to L'Islet. It is August 1916, and Marie-Victorin's father will get married for a second time in October 1916 with Elmina Caron, adopted daughter of the famous Captain Joseph-Elzéar Bernier.

³ *La Patrie*, Montreal newspaper, 15 June 1907, La patrie | BAnQ digital.

⁴ Brother Marie-Victorin, **Mon Miroir**, personal diaries, 1903-1920, Edition prepared and annotated by Brother Gilles Beaudet, f.e.c., and Lucie Jasmin; pp. 731-732; published by FIDES, Montreal.

What are the links between the explorer, Elmina and Marie-Victorin at Lake Trois-Saumons. We know that they owned or rented cottages or villas⁵. That summer, Captain Bernier is in the Arctic, but his adopted widowed daughter, the future Mrs. Kirouac, cannot be very far given that she is getting married the following October. Here is an obvious hypothesis and my question: aren't Cyrille and Conrad using this trip to L'Islet and the Lake to meet the a future wife and a future stepmother? To this day, no mention of that has been found anywhere. Unless one could find something, even a very short mention, in diaries of some residents of the lake⁶.

The presence of Brother Nicephore is also intriguing! Here is why. Somewhere this brother Nicephore



Elmina Caron-Bourget-Kirouac's cottage
(Photo: Musée de la Mémoire vivante (living memory museum))

must have had a naval interest. Many years later, with others, he was responsible of a group of cadets called Les marins de Jacques-Cartier (Jacques Cartier's sailors). Could there be a link between the ever-present Captain Bernier in the media at the time and these probable meetings knowing that the famous explorer was a fervent practicing Catholic?⁷

One last comment about Lake Trois-Saumons: who has not heard about what we, when we were young, called the Camp Ecole Trois-Saumons (i.e. Summer school-camp)? Then it is surprising that Abbe Raoul Clouthier, founder of Camp Ecole 3-Saumons, a



On the right, Joseph-Elzéar Bernier, with visitors to Lake Trois-Saumons between 1917 and 1920. (Photo: Town of Lévis Archives, fonds J.E. Bernier)

former military chaplain, also founded camp Marie-Victorin towards the end of the 1940!⁸

Let's take a moment and go back to four extracts from Marie-Victorin's text written at the end of August 1916. *This short holiday was spent at L'Islet / at the witch's source / my trip to Saint-Cyrille and Bras d'Apic by the Transcontinental train / Papa drove me twice from Quebec City to L'Islet.*

First surprising fact which that I cannot resolve, Marie-Victorin talks about his August holiday. In his intimate journal (*Mon Miroir*) there is not a single entry between 24 July and 3 September. That leaves plenty of time for travelling, because the train journey and two trips with his father means that he was in the L'Islet region at least three times.

There are many Kirouacs living in and around L'Islet, he writes that his August holiday was used at L'Islet. He goes to the witch's spring, now we know that it is in reference to the legend of the Panet Rock. Without talking about it again, let's mention that close to the river shore, in front of the convent of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, close to the college of the De La Salle brothers, where so many sailors studied, there is Arthur Kirouac's Hotel and General Store, nicely (but wrongly) christened *Hôtel de Kerouartz*.

Think, imagine, let's surmise for a moment, Marie-Victorin arrives at L'Islet

⁵Sylvain Lord, History of Lake Trois-Saumons – The first cottages, *L'Attisée* (newspaper), 10 July 2019.

⁶In 1916, Marie-Victorin is 31 years old, Joseph-Elzéar Bernier is 64; his adopted daughter, Elmina, 41, will marry Cyrille Kirouac on 24 October 1916.

⁷*Le Soleil*, Quebec City newspaper, 25 February 1930, *Le soleil* | BANQ digital.

⁸See: Camps Odyssée | About the Odyssey Camps (camps-odysee.com)

driven by his father, how can they not visit Arthur? All the more so at a time when the Kirouacs all believe that our ancestor is none other than a Marquis de Kerouartz! When the subject is dear to L'Islet people, Marie-Victorin is mute; I find that rather surprising. In addition, no mention can be found in any known family story. Yet, it seems unthinkable that father and son would not have visited a relative!

During his time in the L'Islet area, Marie-Victorin underlines that he travelled on the Transcontinental and went through Bras d'Apic and Saint-Cyrille (see websites). At the time, two train lines cross the region. The Canadian National's station is at L'Islet-Station (L'Isletville and now L'Islet) and the Transcontinental's station is inland in the famous village of Bras d'Apic, home to an imaginary university, south of Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard. In order to reach the River, one must pass in front of Wilfrid Kirouac's general store; Wilfrid being Arthur Kirouac's brother. And Arthur's general store is near the church. Once more, imagine Marie-Victorin not stopping at a store owned and operated by a Kirouac!

Unthinkable!

This Wilfrid is my grandfather. On 10 February 1916, his wife Joséphine died soon after giving birth to a boy who did not survive either. Wilfrid remarries on 14 May 1917 with a Miss Caron who gave him more children including my father, Conrad. So, if Marie-Victorin travels through St-Cyrille and L'Islet during the summer of 1916, my grandfather is alone with his children and possibly a maid, because he must be busy at his General Store, unless his eldest daughters, Yvonne and Lauretta, look after their younger siblings.



Hotel de Kérouartz, 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).



Wilfrid Kirouac's General Store at Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard.
(Photo: André Kirouac collection)

How could Marie-Victorin not stop to pay him a visit, knowing he is a widower? Marie-Victorin is not yet as famous as he will become later but such a visit would be remembered by someone. He goes through the village, greets the relative and goes on to L'Islet. Later on, he writes about it in a book published in 1920, the year my father is born! He receives the name Conrad. Am I speculating? Yes!

A few weeks after being in L'Islet, on 4 October, Marie-Victorin seems to conclude his visit with a letter to: "My dear Rolland,". He writes: *Still, my gathering has been fairly good this season. My trip to L'Islet provided me with lots of moss and some interesting Phanerogame. I will send you some of it in a month or two.*⁹

The scientist is always present, no matter what. A few weeks of holidays were not going to stop him from gathering some moss and phanerogame!

⁹ Marie-Victorin to Brother Rolland Germain, 4 October 1916, College of Longueuil, Laboratory of Botany. With kind help from Mrs. Lucie Jasmin.

Long ago what was a joke when I worked with the Botanical Garden's director, is becoming far more serious, at least for me, wouldn't you agree? This can simmer in my head for a while, like a vegetable soup put on the stove before the Sunday Mass. Somewhere there is a link but I cannot yet figure it out.

One day, you will go to L'Islet, walk on its sidewalk, look at the former Hôtel de Kerouartz now the Hôtel L'Islet, the Panet Rock and its cross as well as the grasses. You will also walk along the pier and look at the streaked Cambrian rocks. You will be able to imagine Marie-Victorin, walking barefoot in the mud, like I did when I was young. Then you will take the time to read again this excerpt from a text written by Marie-Victorin to whom I leave the last word:
One day, Leonardo DA VINCI, with his students, was walking through the sunny countryside around Florence. At the site of a ruin, an admirable Greek statue had just

been unheated. A marble Venus still not completely free of its earth casing. The Master kneeled down by the goddess, took a compass from his pocket, a goniometer, a copper protractor, and, strangely, started measuring the proportions of the body's various parts. His fingers were running along the marble, checking related facts and figures only he understood.

— Master, said Giovanni, his disciple, how do you want to find the divine proportion? Do you want to reduce beauty to cold mathematic? Didn't the Ancients achieve perfection in all things, and for us isn't it to use them as our models?

— He, who can drink from the source, does not care about a cup, whether made of gold or vermeil! Said the artist, smiling through his long white beard.

—Master! Exclaimed Giovanni, if you consider that the Ancients offer us only a gilded cup, then where is the source?

— Nature! And Leonardo, deaf to his disciple's protestations, picked up his compass again. The illustrious Florentine was only recalling the truth taught by the great Educator of the World to those who followed him on the hills of Juda and in the Philistines' plains ... May the youth of the Laurentian land listen to the voice of the sublime artist who painted the Last Supper, and may this youth answer the kind invitation of Christ to men: consider the lilies of the field!

Brother MARIE-VICTORIN, 3 April 1935

Gratitude to:

Mrs. Lucie Jasmin, for her advice and Marie-Victorin's letter to Brother Rolland; Mr. François Kirouac for the information about Wilfrid and Arthur Kirouac's families; Mr. Sylvain Lord for the history of Lake Trois-Saumons; Archives of the town of Lévis for supplying Captain Bernier's photo at Lake Trois-Saumons.

MARIE-VICTORIN STAMP

This First Day Cover carries a personal message from Mr. André Ouellet, Postmaster General at the time, and the Honourable Jean Drapeau, Mayor of Montreal for Mrs. Eudora Kirouac-Laurin.



In 1981, Canada Post Office issued a stamp honouring Brother Marie-Victorin, famous botanist, and our "cousin" born Conrad Kirouac. Mrs. Eudora Kirouac-Laurin, Conrad's sister, was invited to the launching ceremony held on 2 October 1981 in Montreal. However, given her age and health, she could not attend; therefore, her son, Jean-Yves Laurin, represented her and received on her behalf a First Day Cover especially signed by Mr. André Ouellet, then Canada Postmaster General, and the Honorable Jean Drapeau, then mayor of Montreal.

MARIE-VICTORIN TO ROLLAND GERMAIN

Longueuil FEC College, Botany Laboratory

4 October 1916

My dear Rolland¹,

I am back in my hole, I have only ten minutes before the exam so I will spend them with you even at the risk of being late! How are you? I have not heard from you since I finished extracting all info I could from Victor². Are you dead or alive, hot or cold?

I certainly hope that you are regularly collecting plants even if it is late in the season and that you will gift me some. My numerous correspondants keep me extremely busy with exchanging plants that I want to include in my herbarium in preparation for the great work to be done for my book *Laurentian Flora*. My health is very good, which is surprising, so I make most of my time and work like a mad man. The *Laurentian Flora* is coming along. I have completed the first draft about the families of *Osmundaceae* and *Polydiaceae*, this last one is rather tricky as it includes most ferns. I will have to make that clear, add notes and I will send you a copy for you to carefully proofread and study; I will be expecting your observations. You can already start thinking about the drawings; I am working on how to do them. It will not be easy. Start by making a plan and practice drawing the ends of the thin membranes protecting the sporangia in ferns.

Still, my gathering has been fairly good this season. **My trip to L'Islet provided me with lots of moss and some interesting Phanerogame. I will send you some of it in a month or two.** As for what you have collected, I am expecting a lot of it. We will let Miss Chase³ study and classify the Grasses and the trees by Sargent³, and the rest by Fernald³.

Good bye for now, I must go. Pray for me as I am always, and more than ever,⁴ responsible for souls. I will talk to you about the circle some other time⁴.

Always sincerely yours

Victorin

F. Victorin



Brother Marie-Victorin
(Photo: KFA collection)



Thiébaud (1891-1970), a teacher in the 7th grade class at the Collège de Longueuil. A second brother Victor could also be our man. From 1913 to 1921 a superior of this name was in charge of the Juvénat de Limoilou and, among his responsibilities, we note: a farm, so... plants and probably some botany teachings. This paragraph, as you will have understood, is full of speculation.

³ Agnes Chase (1869-1963) was one of the greatest specialists of the Grass family / Charles Sprague Sargent (1841-1927) American botanist. / Merritt Lyndon Fernald (1873-1950) of Harvard University, one of the foremost specialists on the flora of eastern North America.

⁴ FEC Archives, Correspondence, N 501 106 520, 507128.30 – with the kind collaboration of Mrs. Lucie Jasmin.

¹ Born in France in 1881, Rolland Germain arrived in Quebec in 1905. A Brother of the Christian Schools, he taught at the Collège de Longueuil, where Brother Marie-Victorin met him. An excellent taxonomist, he taught the latter to recognize the plants they brought back from their first herbalizations and introduced him to scientific methods. Together, they explored Quebec, from Témiscamingue to the Magdalen Islands and from Abitibi to the Eastern Townships. He is credited with making a major contribution to the *Flore laurentienne* published by Marie-Victorin. He studied the Ottawa flora during his time as a professor in Ottawa and completed Marie-Victorin's notes on Anticosti Island and Minganie, which he published in 1969. He died in 1972. Source: [Avenue Rolland-Germain - Montréal \(Ville\) \(gouv.qc.ca\)](http://Avenue.Rolland-Germain-Montréal(Ville).gouv.qc.ca)

² Marie-Victorin uses an unusual expression here: "squeeze the pear." Squeezing a pear to extract its juice is not an easy task. According to Marie Lussier Timperley's research, we could see it as a form of ironic greeting or a way to extract as much information as possible from a person. Concerning this intriguing character referred to as "a certain Victor", Mrs. Lucie Jasmin proposes the name of Brother Marcellin-Victor born Arthur

Talk by Caroline Kirouac

Kirouac Family Association

L'Islet, 9 September 2023

Lieutenant-Commander (LCdr): First rank of senior officers
Commander (Cdr)/Captain (Navy) (Capt(N))

The Corvettes of the Royal Canadian Navy played an important role in the Battle of the Atlantic during the Second World War.

I joined the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in 2002 on a whim. At the time, I just wanted to see if it was true that the basic training camp was easier than tree planting in Abitibi, Quebec.

When I heard that the Naval Reserve camp was being held on the West Coast, in Esquimalt, British Columbia, I saw it as the perfect opportunity to travel (and for free!).

At the Recruiting Centre, it was clear to me that this adventure was limited to a few months, so I pretty much let the Recruiting Centre decide on the trade for me. At worst, if I stayed on after recruit camp, I expected to paint boats or learn to tie knots of any kind.

I was assigned as a Naval Warfare Officer (NWO). Basically, the duties are to manage and direct warships! What a surprise!

All training took place in English (and I only spoke a few words at the time), but the carefree, light-hearted nature of my twenties meant that I pursued this unusual adventure. After alternating between my university studies in education at UQAR (Quebec University at Rimouski) and training as a NWO, I obtained my Bridge Watch-keeping Ticket in 2006 and my Bachelor as Science Teacher in 2007.

Gradually, the two careers became intertwined.

It was clear that I didn't enjoy life at sea that much, and that I would not be a teacher for the rest of my life.

With time on my hand, but also looking for a challenge, I completed a Specialized Graduate Diploma in School Administration. And while I was at it, I started a Master's degree in Education, with a particular interest in educational technologies.

In 2014, I took the plunge and transferred to the Regular Force as a Training Development Officer (TDO).

What is a TDO?

First of all, it is worth mentioning that the CAF has its own training system, with some 90 training establishments across Canada. In other words, whether you are a pilot, a mechanic or a health-care administrator, the CAF takes charge of all the training.

As far as instructors (trainers) are concerned, it should be noted that selection processes are based mainly on geographical availability, rather than on motivation, competence or experience.



Caroline Kirouac, Mariners' Chapel,
L'Islet, 9 September 2023
(Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

TDOs are also major players in the CAF training system:

- They act as experts in training, education and professional development programs;
- Develop training programs;
- Provide pedagogical support to instructors.

In a way, comparable to the pedagogical advisors of the Quebec education system.

Since I started out as a TDO, I have been fortunate that my postings were always related to modeling and simulation, which is my main area of interest.

For example, my last assignment was with a major acquisition project for the Canadian Army, the Land Vehicle Crew Training System (LVCTS) project, aiming to provide simulation centers for the Light Armoured Vehicle (LAV6), the LEOPARD 2

battle tanks and the Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle (TAPV).

These simulation centres will be virtual training systems, enabling the crews of the main armored vehicles to train as realistically as possible.

One of my main tasks was to deconstruct the training currently being carried out in the field, in order to determine the best way to train the crews.

To fully understand this training, I had the opportunity to visit the CAF Bases where most of the armoured vehicle training takes place: Valcartier (QC), Gagetown (NB), Petawawa (ON), Edmonton and Shilo (AB).

During my visits at the training centres, I noted a number of

discrepancies and problems in the use of techno-pedagogy by instructors and TDOs. Due to lack of time, knowledge or interest, only a tiny fraction of the full capacity of educational technology systems is being used.

As I was completing my Masters in Education, I discussed my observations with my research supervisor at the time. What a great subject for doctoral research! Here I am, a PhD Candidate (still at UQAR), and I am sure you can figure out the subject of my research.

I am now working with the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), with the Directorate of Air Simulation and Training (DAST). I am concentrating on the CH147F (Chinook) simulators in Petawawa and the CC130J (Hercules) simulators in Trenton.

I have been in uniform for over twenty-one years now, and it has been a ride! Still, I am always looking for new challenges.



Part of the audience during Caroline Kirouac's talk at the Chapelle des Marins in L'Islet on September 9, 2023.
(Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

The President's Annual Report for 2023

Prepared in the name of the KFA Board Members

L'Islet, Saturday, 9 September 2023

Our last annual general meeting where we actually met in person was on 13 July 2019 at Shawinigan. That was four years ago! Last year, in October 2022, we held a virtual AGM. It was a new experience for the Board members. Do I need to stress how happy I am to see you all and finally be able to present my report "live" and let you know about the Board's activities during the past year.

REUNIONS

Since the publication of the last report in *Le Trésor* 139, the Board met four times: in Ste-Foy on 13 August and 22 October 2022 and on 11 February 2023; the fourth meeting was in Quebec City on 29 April 2023.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

At the meeting on 13 August 2022, the Board members named Renald Kérouack as administrator according to article 6.06 of our rules & regulations. Two more posts are open to new candidates.

I remind you that Céline has been filling in as "temporary" meeting secretary for over ten years. Also, on a temporary basis, Marc is watching the social networks. Of course, two more board members would be most welcome and much appreciated to take on those tasks.

Regional Representatives

Last year, in my report, I asked you to think about the relevance of keeping regional representative positions. For some years it has been difficult to find candidates particularly for two regions: Montreal-Outaouais-Abitibi as well as Mauricie-Bois-Francs-Eastern Townships. Perhaps you are still wondering what it takes to be a Regional Representative: simply be interested in everything to do with

the Kirouacs, curiosity helps as it becomes a game of searching and finding in social medias!

I ask for your thoughts on the subject, but I am still waiting for answers. However, last autumn, the Board members decided to keep said posts, hoping that eventually someone, man or woman, will accept at least to try, let's say for a year! I am inviting you again to think about it, and please don't hesitate to contact me, or another board member at least to discuss it.

KFA VISIBILITY AND PRODUCTIONS

Website

From 31 August 2022, when we launched our new Website, until 29 June 2023, covering a ten-month period, 3,290 different people visited our website; 52% were from the USA and 38% from Canada, the other visitors were from some twenty different countries.

During the past year, we put online more new galleries of photos from our various gatherings thanks to Lucille Kirouac who kept sorting out hundreds of photos. All together, including the photos from the annual gatherings, it comes to 37 new galleries of photos covering many other activities besides the annual meetings. That particular section of our website is now up to date. Lucille deserves much gratitude for all the many hours of patient work she put in to select, identify and set up the photos.

L'Espace Jack Kerouac (corner) at the municipal library at Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup

This project was put forward by the town to mark the 100th anniversary of Jack Kerouac's birth because his father was born in the village - the

village that Jack visited once. This initiative brought about the creation of a Jack Kerouac corner dedicated to our "cousin" the Franco-American author. In this space can be found a vast selection of books either written by Jack Kerouac or about him, they are available not only to the citizens of St. Hubert but also to all the libraries belonging to the Lower Saint-Lawrence Library Services. This interactive space offering various visual elements was officially opened on 17 July 2023. Our Association contributed 39 books, a complete digital collection of the *Trésors des Kirouac* and a copy of the newly produced book entitled *Jack Kerouac and Québec*.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND ON-GOING PROJECTS

Index of subjects published in Le Trésor

For many years now, Lucille Kirouac and Céline Kirouac keep up to date the Index of subjects published in *Le Trésor*. This represents hundreds of entries. You can obtain a (free) copy of this index (Excel file or PDF) by sending us an email request. Much gratitude to Lucille and Céline for this valiant and patient work.

The Association's Archives

Thousands of documents have been accumulating in the past 45 years. Nevertheless, our Association never had an archivist to index, classify and file everything.

About twenty years ago, I started to work on the archives according to a classification model prepared by the Quebec Federation of Family Associations. However, it soon became obvious and urgent to redo

all that work in order to make easier to consult said archives archives.

In addition, now we have to think about paring down the quantity of documents to be kept if only because of the space needed to keep them. Therefore, last November, in order for the archives to be more easily accessible and to be kept in less space, we started to redo the archives' classification and we also proceeded to scan as many documents as possible. Once scanned, many documents were destroyed except when the originals were so precious and had to be kept.

Much gratitude to Marc Villeneuve for his help in this meticulous work and to his wife, Mercédès Bolduc-Villeneuve, who patiently scanned hundreds of documents.

Publications

Since the beginning of the year, it is possible to download free from the KFA website the digital book entitled *Jack Kerouac & le Québec*. This is a KFA project to underline the 100th anniversary of Jack's birth and it was made possible thanks in great part to the Eric Waddell, responsible for the *Jack Kerouac Observatory*. Because of a number of requests, a few copies were printed on paper. You can order one simply by sending us an email. I take this opportunity to thank Eric Waddell for his work.

Genealogy

Because of all the time needed to work on the archives this year, the genealogical research into registers and other documents took second place. Indeed, from July 2022 to July 2023, we added only 231 descendants in our database and only 528 reference documents: baptism, marriage, burial, censuses, death cards, photos of tombstones, photos of persons, etc. At the beginning of July, our digital database included 15,351 descendants of Alexandre de

Kervoach (9,950 spouses) and 49,202 files. Today, the number of descendants of our Ancestor's two sons are as follows: 7,483 for Simon-Alexandre and 7,868 for Louis.

For over a year now, work has started along the line of genealogical research by DNA in order to find out how to attach to our family tree, the Kirouac branch, from Douglstown in Gaspé Peninsula. We got quite a shock indeed when we learned that this branch is that of Jean Hélie dit le Breton. The research is ongoing because there are missing data needed to complete this story. It will be a pleasure to share them all in a future *Trésor*.

Along the line of the DNA research, we intend to scientifically validate the links with the Le Bihan family from Huelgoat in Brittany. We are jointly working with *Québec-ANDy (FamilyTree DNA) to reach this goal. Much gratitude to Greg Kyrourac and to Marc Villeneuve for all the work done in the DNA file.

GRATITUDE TO

I wish to express much gratitude to all those who contributed something to the various KFA activities during the past year.

First of all, our Regional Representatives:

Marie Kirouac, Lucille Kirouac, Mercédès Bolduc, Georges Kirouac, Mark Pattison and Greg Kyrourac;

Permanent Committee Members:

Le Trésor des Kirouac:

Marie Kirouac, Marie Lussier Timperley, Greg Kyrourac and Mark Pattison;

History & Genealogy:

Lucille Kirouac, Céline Kirouac and Greg Kyrourac;

Marie-Victorin Observatory:
Lucie Jasmin;

Jack Kerouac Observatory:
Eric Waddell;

Website:
Lucille Kirouac;

Proofreaders:

Céline Kirouac, Lucille Kirouac, Thérèse Kirouac, Robert Kirouac, Mark Pattison, Greg Kyrourac;

Translator:

Marie Lussier Timperley.

Last but not least, much gratitude to the KFA Board members whose vital support is essential year in, year out, to help me carry on the KFA administration, Marie, Céline, Mercédès, Marc, Renald and René. I also wish to thank particularly those Board members who, this year, accepted to take on extra responsibilities, that is, wear some extra hats. If our Association is so healthy, it is due to the work of these indefatigable collaborators.

François Kirouac,
For the KFA Board,
15 August 2023

*(Reference:

<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/quebecmtdna/about>)



L'Ancienne-Lorette (Québec)

350th Anniversary of Foundation

by Céline Kirouac

On 23 September 2023, a special event entitled "One Day a Loretain¹, always a Loretain" brought together the main founding families of L'Ancienne-Lorette as well as newly established families. This very special day was organized by the municipality as part of the celebrations marking the 350th anniversary of its foundation. Thanks to perfect weather, the gathering was held outdoors in the parking lot next to Notre-Dame de L'Annonciation Church. Many members of the Kirouac Family Association gladly accepted the invitation and were happy to take part in this special event. They were welcomed by Johanne Laurin, city councillor, daughter of Cécile (Ferland) and Jean-Yves Laurin (nephew of brother Marie-Victorin). Also present were Jean-Louis and his wife Anne-Marie (Plourde) Kérouac, Julie Kirouac and Céline Kirouac. Seated, and holding a glass of bubbly, the guests listened to the celebratory speech.

Mr. Gaétan Pageau, the mayor, was delighted to welcome everyone to his town and spoke with great pride about the immense contribution of those who built the town and enriched it through their multiple achievements, thus ensuring a wonderful quality of life for those residing at L'Ancienne-Lorette. He particularly acknowledged the representative of the founding families: Gauvin, Drolet, Kirouac, Robitaille, Laurin, Hamel, Tardif, Bureau, and others who mark the very beginning of the history of L'Ancienne-Lorette, of course also mentioning the contributions of present and new citizens who hold the future in their hands.

Mr. Simon Veilleux, responsible for the town's cultural life, talked about various contributions from some of the first families. Especially how the Gauvin ancestor, Jean Gauvin, gave the land to build the first church; the Drolet family owned the bus company providing regional transport, particularly the link with Quebec City; the Kirouacs and Villa Ploërmel, first Chevalier François lived in it with his family, then generations of his descendants; the Honorable Wilfrid Hamel², mayor

¹ The word "lorettain" was first used in 1901 by Abbe Lindsay when referring to the inhabitants' costume loretain". Later on, Marie -Victorin used "lorettain" when referring to L'Ancienne-Lorette's inhabitants in his *Récits laurentiens* (Laurentian Tales). Source: Lionel Allard (1911-1994), L'Ancienne-Lorette, Leméac publisher, Montreal, 1979, 386 pages, p.77).

² Wilfrid Hamel (1895-1968), Quebec politician; Minister of Land and Forests in Adélard Godbout's government (1939-1944) and Quebec City mayor 1953-1965.



Photo: Julie Kirouac collection

Representatives of the Kirouac family present in L'Ancienne-Lorette during the celebration of the 350th anniversary of the founding of the municipality. From left to right: 2nd row, Cécile Ferland-Kirouac, Johanne Laurin and Jean-Louis Kérouac; front row: Céline Kirouac, Jean-Yves Laurin and Julie Kirouac. Jean-Yves Laurin's parents were the last owners of the Ploërmel house in L'Ancienne-Lorette, the summer residence of Chevalier François Kirouac.



The Villa Ploërmel was built by Joseph Hamel in 1838. The Chevalier François Kirouac (1826-1896) bought it in 1882 as a summer residence. In January 1915, on the death of his wife, Marie-Julie Hamel-Kirouac, their son Cyrille Kirouac bought out his siblings' shares and became the sole owner of the estate. His son-in-law, Édouard Laurin, husband of Eudora Kirouac, was the following owner.

(Photo: KFA collection)

of Quebec City. And the list goes on and on. Let us add the Laurin family, including the ancestor Victor L. Laurin³ (1846-1912), was a true country doctor, available day and night. On 25 September 1912, the Lorette parishioners, all very sad, attended his funeral Mass to show their gratitude.

Then we were invited to go to the side of the church to see a wooden structure representing the chapel whose history goes way back to the 17th century⁴. Indeed, the beginning of the parish and the town of L'Ancienne-Lorette are closely linked to the history of the Notre-Dame-de-Lorette-en-Canada chapel built in 1674 by the Jesuit Fathers inspired and led by Father Joseph-Marie Chaumonot. In 2018, during an archeological dig, the remains of the last chapel were found and, in 2023, were partially reproduced over the original foundations. A team, including an historian, an architect and an engineer built the partial replica we admired today presenting to the Loretains a page of their town's history. Of course, this replica was not built to withstand the winter, hence it was demolished in October 2023. A very interesting 20-minute video was available in a tent, illustrating many special moments in the municipality's history.

The Kirouacs at L'Ancienne-Lorette

I can well imagine young François Kirouac (1826-1896) coming along the Petite-Rivière Road and the L'Ormière Road to enjoy the peaceful countryside where he visited the Hamel family and would marry their daughter Marie-Julie on 6 June 1848 at L'Ancienne-Lorette Parish Church. He likes the village and, probably to enable his wife to be near her parents and where she grew up, he decided to buy a summer residence nearby and named it Villa Ploërmel in honour of his Breton ancestors. Situated south of the church, the Villa was surrounded by fields where his



Gaétan Pageau, Mayor of L'Ancienne-Lorette, welcomed guests to the ceremony. (Photo: Julie Kirouac)



Mr. Simon Veilleux tells the story of Father Joseph-Marie Chaumonot's chapel in front of the replica built to mark the 350th anniversary. (Photo: Julie Kirouac)

children enjoyed nature during their summer holidays and, years later, one of his grandsons, Conrad, did. Flowers, birds, and plants fed his curiosity,

³ Source: Lionel Allard (1911-1994), *L'Ancienne-Lorette*, Leméac, Montréal, 1979, 386 pages, pages 108 and 109.

⁴ *Au commencement de L'Ancienne-Lorette Mémoire du Père Martin Bouvart De la Chapelle de Notre Dame de Laurette en Canada* (The beginnings of L'Ancienne-Lorette, Souvenirs of Father Martin Bouvard, Chapel of Notre Dame-de-Laurette in Canada; published 1&2 March 1675 and reprinted by the Corporation Chapelle Notre-Dame-de-Lorette in 2014 to mark the 375th anniversary of the arrival in Canada of Father Chaumonot, founder of L'Ancienne-Lorette.

⁵ According to Jean-Yves Laurin, the villa Ploërmel was demolished around 1953 to make room for the Pavillon Notre-Dame next to the Hauts-Clochers school.

images he described in his *Récits laurentiens* (Laurentian Tales), *La corvée des Hamel* (the Hamels' annual harvesting), *Le rosier de la Vierge* (the Virgin's rose bush), and many other chapters in this remarkable work describing life in the Laurentians at the time.

During many years, the Villa

Ploërmel⁵ bought by Chevalier François Kirouac was used by his son, Cyrille, then by Cyrille's daughter, Eudora Kirouac-Laurin, where her brother, Conrad, who was by then a religious brother in the De Lasalle congregation, often visited. Conrad (Marie-Victorin) always loved to be back in the house that had witnessed so many

memorable gatherings and feasts that he loved to partake with the family he loved so much.

Near to L'Ancienne-Lorette Parish Church is the Marie-Victorin Library, named after Conrad Kirouac, writer, poet, botanist and adopted Loretain at heart.

PIERRE-JOSEPH-MARIE CHAUMONOT
(1611-1693)

Compagnon des saints martyrs
Fondateur de L'Ancienne-Lorette
Bâtitteur de la Chapelle de 1674



1611 : naît à Sainte-Colombe-sur-Seine en France (9 mars)
1623 : fait son cours classique à Châtillon-sur-Seine (1623-1629)
1629 : vole de l'argent à son oncle, prêtre, et part pour Rome en vagabond
1630 : est affligé d'une « affreuse gale à la tête pleine de pus et de vers »
: est guéri à Loreto en Italie, où se trouve la Sainte Maison de Nazareth
1632 : entre chez les Jésuites à Rome (15 mai)
1637 : lit une lettre du père Jean de Brébeuf et demande les missions du Canada
: fait un 3^e et dernier pèlerinage à Loreto où il forme le projet de bâtir au Canada une chapelle sur le modèle de la Sainte Maison de Nazareth
1638 : est ordonné prêtre (19 mars)
1639 : arrive au Canada avec les premières religieuses (1^{er} août)
: est missionnaire au pays des Hurons pendant 11 ans (1639-1650)
: est compagnon des saints martyrs
: reçoit le nom du père Jean de Brébeuf, « Échon », et devient son successeur
1650 : est missionnaire des Hurons à Québec et à l'île d'Orléans (1650-1655)
1655 : est interprète des Iroquois à Québec pour le gouverneur de Lauzon
: est missionnaire des Iroquois et s'adresse aux Cinq Nations (1655-1658)
1658 : est missionnaire des Hurons réfugiés à Québec
1659 : est témoin de l'arrivée de M^{re} François de Laval (16 juin)
1663 : fonde la Confrérie de la Sainte Famille à Montréal avec Marguerite Bourgeoys, le curé Suart, madame d'Ailleboust et Judith de Bressoles
: est missionnaire des Hurons à Québec (1663-1665)
: est promoteur de la Confrérie de la Sainte Famille à Québec
1664 : la Confrérie de la Sainte Famille est approuvée par M^{re} de Laval (14 mars)
1665 : est aumônier du Régiment de Carignan au fort Richelieu (1665-1666)
1667 : est missionnaire des Hurons, des Iroquois et des Français à la mission de Notre-Dame-de-Foy (1667-1673)
1673 : est missionnaire des Hurons et des Iroquois, et curé des Français à la mission de Notre-Dame-de-Lorette (1673-1692)
1674 : fait bâtir la chapelle Notre-Dame-de-Lorette sur le modèle de la Sainte Maison de Nazareth laquelle est à Loreto en Italie
: par son intercession, plusieurs miracles s'accomplissent
1692 : se retire à Québec, à l'automne, au Collège des Jésuites
1693 : meurt à Québec, le 21 février, à l'âge de 82 ans

Le père Chaumonot et un Huron
dessin de Jean-Claude d'Herbomez de
Sainte-Colombe-sur-Seine (libré de la 5 janvier 2013)

Le père Chaumonot, l'ami
des Hurons et des Iroquois

Le père Chaumonot et
Notre-Dame-de-Lorette

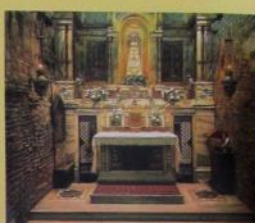
LA SAINTE MAISON À LORETO EN ITALIE



Vue du sanctuaire de Loreto en 1572. Sous la coupole de la basilique se trouve la Sainte Maison de Nazareth transportée par les Croisés en 1294. C'est là que le jeune vagabond Pierre Chaumonot est guéri d'une affreuse gale à la tête.



Intérieur de la Sainte Maison. Les pierres au bas des murs proviennent de Nazareth. C'est par ces portes que Pierre Chaumonot entre en 1630, âgé de 19 ans.



Le jeune Chaumonot est guéri après avoir prié la Vierge dans la Sainte Maison de Loreto où sa statue est placée dans une niche sur le manteau de la cheminée.

**LA SAINTE MAISON AU CANADA
LA CHAPELLE DE 1674**



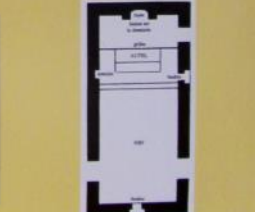
Les sondages archéologiques de 1983 ont mis à jour le mur est de la chapelle de 1674. Comme en Italie, ce mur comportait une cheminée où était placée la Vierge de Loreto reçue d'Italie.



Les fouilles archéologiques de 2013 portent sur le chœur et la nef de la chapelle de 1674.



Maquette de la chapelle de 1674 réalisée par Michel Bergeron. La chapelle était bâtie sur le modèle de la Sainte Maison de Loreto avec trois portes et deux fenêtres. Le père Chaumonot lui a donné un toit français à quatre versants.



Plan de la Sainte Maison à Loreto et de la Sainte Maison au Canada

Panels dedicated to Father Chaumonot and the chapel he built at L'Ancienne-Lorette; these panels were placed in the temporary chapel replica built for the 350th anniversary. (Photo: Julie Kirouac)

National Award for writer Marie-France Bornais

A seasoned traveller, camper and writer, Marie-France Bornais, daughter of Michel Bornais and Yolande Genest, granddaughter of Leona Kirouac (GFK 00331) and Lucien Bornais, received a prestigious national award last June during the Travel Media Association of Canada (TMAC) annual convention held in Sudbury, Ontario .

Her book *Le Nouveau-Brunswick en camping*, published in French at Les Éditions de l'Homme, highlights the best campgrounds and best places to explore in the Canadian maritime province of New Brunswick. The book received the TMAC Award of excellence for Best Travel Book, 2nd place in Canada.

The jury's comments were very enthusiastic: *"Inspires me to hop in the car and camp in New Brunswick! I can see this living in my glove box, dog-eared and frayed. Google is not required if you have this book on hand!"*

The award-winning book is a full-color 224-pages travel guide about New Brunswick, featuring the best places to explore, the best campsites, history and heritage, best places to eat and roadside attractions. It also includes exclusive interviews including one featuring internationally renowned Acadian novelist and playwright Antonine Maillet (born 10 May 1929 in N.B.), and hundreds of pictures.

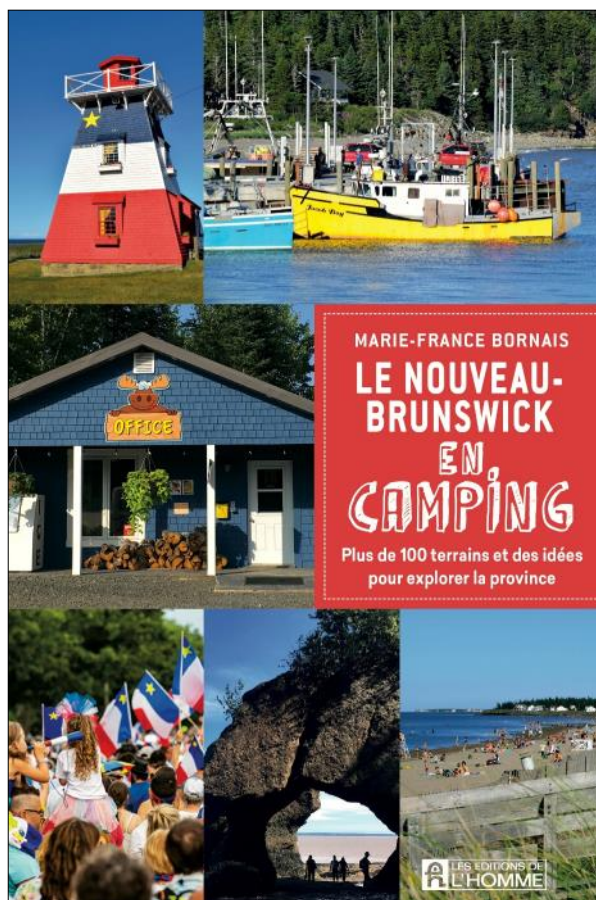
Marie-France Bornais is a staff writer for *Le Journal de Québec*, a daily newspaper. Her interviews with famous authors from Quebec and beyond are regularly published in *Le Journal de Montréal*, a popular daily newspaper.

She has published five travel books at Les Éditions de l'Homme: *Escapades américaines*, *Le Québec en camping*, *Le Nouveau-Brunswick en camping*, *Le Québec en camping*, second enriched edition, and the guidebook *Camping 101*.

The travelling author is active on social media. You can follow her on Facebook (Marie-France Bornais-Auteure) and Instagram (mfbornais) or by clicking the hashtag #MFenCamping. Her books are available in bookstores and on Amazon.ca.



Marie-France Bornais
(Photo: © Annie Thériault-Roussel)



Michel Bornais, member of the board of directors of the KFA from 2001 to 2009, and his wife, Yolande Genest, parents of Marie-France.

(Photo: KFA collection)



The VALLEY OF THE SAINTS IN BRITTANY¹

by Marie Lussier-Timperley

The project was launched in 2008. The first statues were cut from Breton granite stones in 2009 and the inauguration of the **Valley of The Saints** took place in May 2012. Every year the number of visitors increases as well as the number of statues. The project is so crazy and extravagant that some call it a Breton Easter Island for the third millennium, or a pharaonic enterprise. Let's say it is a Breton project for eternity located on the Quénéquillec hill, above a valley near Carnoët in Côtes-d'Armor².

Why 1000 Statues for 1000 Saints?

I found answers to this intriguing question in Jean Markale's book entitled *Traditions de Bretagne, (Breton Traditions)* published in 1976, and traditions in Brittany are no laughing matter. I read that: *Art and religion during the megalithic age, from 3000 B.C. to 2000 B.C., left lots of megaliths, dolmens, menhirs and stone alignments. After that period came Druidism, the religion adopted by all the peoples subjected to the Celts. (...) In AD, during the fourth century, some Britons from the Island of Bretagne, dominated by the Romans at the time, started to emigrate to the Armorican peninsula. Then during the fifth and sixth centuries, more Britons from the Island of Bretagne, fleeing the invasions of the Angles, Saxons and Jutes, crossed the English Channel massively migrating to Armorica. Finding a country almost entirely pagan, they Christianized it.*

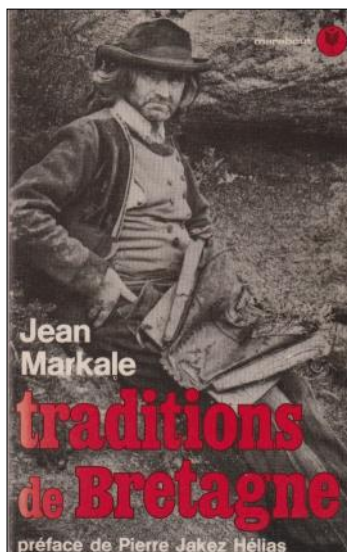
Jean Markale adds that *monks and members of the semi-monastic clergy from the Island of Bretagne left their native country to migrate to Armorica at the beginning of the sixth century. These religious men did so to mentor their Breton compatriots already settled in the Armorican peninsula. These missionaries are still alive in the*

collective memory through myths and legends and the people's attachment to religion. I also read that many "saints" had a reputation for curing diseases. Over time, legends grew as fast as their miracles. It seems there is a saint to cure every illness, or almost, for animals as well as humans.

Jean Markale writes that because this happened way before the Catholic Church ever adopted an official canonization process, it explains why so few "Breton saints" are effectively recognized by the Church; nonetheless, it is a fact that all the "Breton Saints" have greatly influenced Brittany, then called Armorica.

Let's be clear on the fact that there is no portrait or image of any of these "saints", thus today's sculptors use their imagination when carving the granite saints³. Based on popular traditional Breton culture, this free tourist attraction is unique in the world and a one-of-a-kind display of Breton granite sculptures⁴.

Did Jean Markale's book inspire the creators of the Valley of the Saints? I have no idea, but he does mention that: *At the end of the Middle-Ages, nowhere else (in the world) such a*



Saint Karantec, one of the giant statues in the **Valley of The Saints** photographed by André Kirouac while in Brittany in May 2023 to illustrate his story published in *Le Trésor* 142, pages 5-28. All photos in the present article are by André Kirouac.

number of churches and chapels can be found, over 18,000 wonderfully preserved because they are made of hard granite (...) for two reasons: Brittany was and still is an essentially religious and profoundly mystic country and also because it is the granite country,

¹ To read more about it, see *Le Trésor* 140, pp. 9-14, four articles on the Irish and Celtic origin of our Breton ancestors; in *Le Trésor* 141, pp. 14-17: Genealogy through DNA and Quebec DNA Project.

² On the internet: lavalloedessaints.com to discover the history of this unique project in Brittany

³ On the internet, international team of sculptors at work: www.lavalloedessaints.com/boutique-pxl-118.html

⁴ Brochure (in French), may be downloaded at: <https://www.lavalloedessaints.com/images/Image/File/2022-VDS-PlqInstitutionnelle%20Oct22%20WEB.pdf>

and monuments built of granite are strong enough to resist the strongest winds and stormy weather, and as it ages this stone gets a cover of lichens and mosses giving it an extraordinary patina that is found only in Brittany. (...) For centuries, monastic life constituted the framework of Breton Christianity in the Armorican peninsula as well as in Ireland and in the Island of Bretagne.

JACQUES KIROUAC and his collection of books about Brittany

Jacques Kirouac, KFA founding president (1927-2019), bequeathed to our Association his large collection of books about Brittany and many other books of interest to our Association. Besides a mountain of KFA archives, François, our current president, kept these books in his house. But lack of space forced him to think about what to do with all these treasures. François had a great idea; he brought Jacques' books to L'Islet offering them in exchange for a contribution to the KFA.

One temptation I cannot resist is buying a good book! So, at L'Islet I waited after everyone else had chosen; at the last moment I picked a few small books including Jean Markale's *Breton Traditions*. Inside the cover, Jacques had written that he had bought the book in Paris in 1976, the year it came out. I also noted that the foreword was by Pierre Jakez Hélias⁵, well known for collecting colourful old Breton stories some of which were published in past issues of *Le Trésor*.

Le Trésor is the right place to thank Jacques for sharing his collection with his extended family. May I invite others who chose some of Jacques' books to write about their choice and what they learned from them. I think it would be a nice way to express our gratitude to our KFA

founder and, at the same time, share his generous gift with even more "cousins".

I learned so much from that book! Of course, the Internet is useful, but I strongly believe that books are even more precious because they provide far more precise details. To conclude, I have a suggestion: why not plan another KFA trip to Brittany? Guided by André? Jacques' dream was a second KFA trip to Brittany. Why not?

⁵ Stories by Pierre Jakez Hélias published in *Le Trésor* 20, June 1990; *Le Trésor* 109, Autumn 2012; *Le Trésor* 119, Winter 2015.



Photo: André Kirouac



Photo: André Kirouac



Photo: André Kirouac

Kyrouac Family Reunion in Bourbonnais, Illinois, Saturday, August 5, 2023

by Greg Kyrouac

Descendants of Louis and Malvina Kyrouac (*Pipere* and *Mimere*) met on Saturday, August 5 for the 10th biennial Kyrouac family reunion at the Bradley Bourbonnais Sportsmen's Club. Around 100 people were in attendance, with many out-of-state family members from California, Texas, Wisconsin, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, New York, Tennessee and more, as well as local family members. Only one of the remaining grandchildren of Louis & Malvina was in attendance, Jim Kyrouac.

We had monsoon-like conditions that day. For those driving from the south, it was very difficult to see the road, and for much of the trip, we were only able to drive at about 40 mph. We received two inches of rain that day with winds averaging 30 mph. But fortunately, there were no major mishaps.

As with every reunion, we ate royally, delicious chicken accompanied by a variety of salads and other dishes brought by everyone, not to mention the succulent desserts, each bringing his or her specialty.

I gave a brief presentation about the genetic discoveries we had learned in the previous two years. I also told them about the planet and solar system of Kyrouac in the Star Wars universe¹. I brought the magazine article and some dice so that some of those who were into gaming and Star Wars could try it out.

After playing several games, we learned that the best result that could occur was to survive, not actually win.

We were not able to have all the typical *Kyrouac Carnival* activities due to the weather, but there were plenty of activities geared



The children of Don and Betty Kyrouac, from left to right: Susie Kyrouac Harms, Donna Kyrouac Kubick, Debbie Kyrouac Kerby, Tom, Greg and Brian Kyrouac. (Photo: Kent Kerby)



Jo Kyrouac Ruel, Cindy and her brother, Fred Gifford, prepare for the children to receive their "cousin cones". (Photo: Nancy Kyrouac Estensen)

¹ See *Le Trésor* 142, pp. 38-41, *Search for Kyrouac Leads to a Galaxy Far, Far Away*.

towards the younger generation. A big hit for both the younger and older generations was the display of old photos of family members. There were three cutouts for people to pose and become part of the display, and many people, including my three eldest granddaughters, took advantage of the opportunity.

The younger ones (and a few older folks as well) had the opportunity to try out the new Cousin Cones booth.

The Bags tournament is an annual highlight of the reunion. Even though the rain was pouring down, we were able to play outdoors under the pavilion.

The rules had to be changed slightly, since if the cornhole boards were set at the official distance, the participants would have been standing in the rain.

The winning team was Donnie Gifford and Steve Harms of Kankakee, husband of Susie Kyroutac Harms. Steve won the first two trophies but was defeated in 2021, so now they took home the traveling trophies until the next reunion in 2025.



Greg & Nancy's eldest grandchildren (Elliana, Serena and Selah) in the display of old photos of family members. (Photo: Jennifer Kyroutac O'Gorman)



Twenty five of the great-grandchildren of Louis & Malvina present at the reunion. (Photo: Nancy Kyroutac Estensen)



2023 Champs - Steve Kyroutac, one of the last reunion's co-champions, awards Steve Harms. Donnie Gifford receives his award from Steve Kyroutac's wife, Diana Rohland Kyroutac. (Photo: Nancy Kyroutac Estensen)

HOMAGE TO ROLAND KIROUAC¹

by Marie Lussier-Timperley

In 2018, Roland published **Message From a Fool**². In his memoirs, Roland talks about growing up in abject poverty in Quebec City's poorest slum in St-Sauveur district. Dance and determination got him out of hell to reach stardom. Roland's dream to be the best at his craft led him to some of the world's biggest stages in Europe and North America including Hollywood. It is a heart wrenching and but most inspiring story.

Starting at 15 at the **Arthur Murray studio** in Quebec City. Professional at 16, he left for Toronto, worked at **Arthur Murray** where he learned English from his dance students. From 1972 to 1982, he was the choreographer and main dancer in the iconic **Pig & Whistle Show** entertaining Canadian households on CTV (Clips on YouTube).

In 1960, he co-founded the **Roland & Romaine School of the Performing Arts**, where many future Canadian film, television, and theatre entertainers got their start before reaching international stardom. This School quickly became one of the best in Toronto and still is.

In 1988, at the **Calgary Winter Olympic Games "Opening Ceremonies"**, Roland choreographed and staged the first 15 minutes; they were so spectacular, that the press forgot to talk about the rest of the show.

In 1989, for the **Toronto Skydome (Rogers Center) Opening Ceremonies**, Roland was the Artistic Director and Choreographer working with and staging 5000 performers.

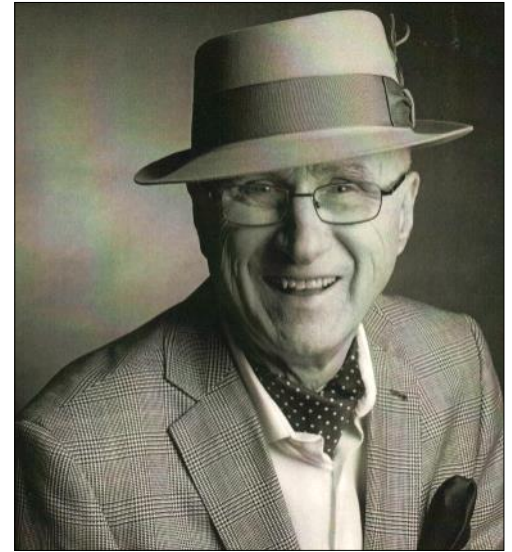
In 2010, the **Vancouver Olympic Torch Relay** stopping in many Canadian cities from east to west, including Orangeville where Roland put on a fantastic show at the Tony Rose Arena.

Known as one of "Canada's finest choreographers", Roland's vision and talent earned him the respect and praise of industry icons, dancers, directors and fellow entertainers around the globe. An innovative artist and a passionate man, he is also remembered as a mentor. His career spans over six decades.

In 1972, a stunning tall blond walked in his School and into his life. She was on her way to Las Vegas, contract in hand. It was love at first sight. She stayed in Toronto. Besides being very talented, she had principles and convictions. While Roland imbibed, Sandra drank orange juice! To read



Roland Kirouac and his wife, Sandra Poore
(Photo: Sandra Poore collection)



Roland Kirouac (1936-2023), dancer, choreographer, artistic director and author.
(Photo: Sandra Poore collection)

Roland's testimony and gratitude to his amazing wife, alone is worth the price of his memoirs, **Message From A Fool**.²

Determined to defeat his inner demons, the products of his appalling childhood, he voraciously read thinkers and philosophers, the stoic particularly. *Out of the boy was born a man*. And a man of reason. Sandra was his faithful partner at home, raising their sons, as on the dance floor.

In February 2021, the 84-year-young, Roland, and his wife, Sandra told their remarkable love story in song and dance at the Orangeville Theatre as part of the Valentine Day show. Who can beat that? Roland completed his latest book **Journey To The Far Shore**, just before departing this world. Let's hope that it will be published soon.

¹ Obituary in Memoriam p.45.

Read about his niece Anne-Marie Kirouac, painter, daughter of his brother Serge in *Le Trésor* (no. 66, Dec. 2001, pp. 5-11).

² Published in 2018 ; available at BookLore, 121 First Street, Orangeville, Ont., L9W 3J8, email: booklore@bellnet.ca - Website: <https://booklore.ca>

IN MEMORIAM

CURWICK, DONALD (1932-2023)

Donald Curwick, 90, of Northfield, formerly of Farmington and Lakeville, died at Three Links Care Center on 20 March 2023. Donald Lloyd Curwick Sr. was born on 29 November 1932, in Marshall/Lynd, Minnesota, and raised by his loving mother, Louise Curwick Schrunck. He enlisted in the Navy on 8 May 1951 and served during the Korean War and was honorably discharged on 4 May 1955. Don met the love of his life, Gloria Spicer, through a mutual friend and Navy shipmate, Marlin Knutson. They were married after Don completed his Navy service and raised eight children. Don is survived by his children, Victoria (Robert) Staupé; Donald (Carol) Curwick Jr; Daniel Curwick; Kenneth Curwick; Keith (Rosanna) Curwick; Douglas (Paula Bonelli) Curwick; Linda (Ronald) McCalment; Susan Curwick; 18 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; siblings, Rosemary (Gene) Bakke of Bemidji, James Curwick, Gene (Barb) Curwick, and George (Dorothy) Curwick. He was preceded in death by his wife, Gloria (2021); mother, Louise; and sisters, Donna Thomas and Doris Lawson. A memorial service was held on 1 April 2023, at Bierman Funeral Home. Interment will be in Farmington Lutheran Cemetery, at a later date, next to his beloved wife, Gloria.

CURWICK, JOHN A. (1937-2023)

John Curwick, 85, of Seminole, Fla., died 2 September 2023. A former Golden Gloves boxer, he was born to Theodore & Dorothy Curwick, in Aroma Park, Illinois, he brought his family here in 1971 from Momence, Ill. Owner of Curwick Auto Sales on Park Boulevard, Pinellas Park. He is survived by his son, John Curwick, Jr. (Sheri), his daughter, Terri Scott,

as well as his two granddaughters, Lily Curwick and Savana Clark, and two stepdaughters, Theresa Owen and Cindy Schriefer. Also surviving are two brothers, Jerry and Ronnie Curwick, and his sister Sharon Morrison. A celebration of Life took place.

DIONNE, CONNIE SUE (1960-2023)

Connie Sue Dionne, 63, of Herscher, Ill., died 26 August 2023, at Victoria General Hospital, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, where she was taken after becoming ill on an Alaskan cruise. She was born 10 March 1960, in Kankakee, Illinois, daughter of Floyd (grandson of **GFK 02732**) and Geraldine Denault Tobenski. Connie married Rex Dionne on 21 April 1979, at St. James Catholic Church, Irwin. Surviving are her husband, Rex, one son and daughter-in-law, Tobey and Chelsea Dionne; one daughter and son-in-law, Kalee and Jonathan Pair; one sister, Pam Kennedy; one brother-in-law, Robert Hensley; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Dennis and Janice Tobenski and Randy and Jill Tobenski; four grandchildren, Carter Sutton, Hadley Sutton, Mila Pair and Rex Dionne. Preceding her in death were her parents; and two sisters, Vicki Hensley and her twin sister, Bonnie Draper. Memorial service was held at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais.

GIROUX, MARCEL (1943-2023)

Marcel Giroux, age 80, died on 23 September 2023. He leaves to mourn his partner, Lise Kirouac and his children: Daniel Giroux, Chantal Giroux and Josée Giroux, his grandchildren: Patrick Giroux, Josiane Giroux, Vicky Carignan and Mathieu Carignan; one great-grandson, Mathéo Lacasse, his partner's children: Vicky Jalbert and Brigitte Jalbert, and many relatives and friends. A ceremony was held on 15 October 2023, at the Funeral Coor of Grand Montréal at Saint-Hubert.

FERLAND-KEROACK, ARLENE (1934-2023)

Arlene Ferland Keroack, 88, of Havelock, N.C., died on 29 August 2023, at Onslow Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville. Born on 14 December 1934, in Livermore Falls, Maine, Arlene was the daughter of Wilfred Ferland and Jeannette Marceau Ferland. She leaves to mourn, her children, Gary B. Keroack (Lynn), and Scott A. Keroack (Marcela), grandchildren, Emily Keroack, Lauren Keroack, and Sophia Brocato. Arlene was preceded in death by her loving husband, Bernard Walton Keroack, Jr. (grandson of **GFK 02532**), who passed away in 2013; daughter, Catherine Connors; son, Stephen R. Keroack; granddaughter, Tiffany Guthrie. A graveside service for Arlene was held at 2 p.m., on 10 September at Gethsemane Memorial Park in Newport, N.C.

KIROUAC, MARIE-JEANNE (1927-2023)

At the Lévis hospital, on 9 September 2023, days before her 96th birthday, died Marie-Jeanne Kirouac (GFK 01871), wife of the late Lucien Ferland. She was the daughter of Marie-Louise Tremblay and Alphonse Kirouac. A ceremony was held on 8 October 2023 at the Plateau Funeral Centre at Quebec City. The ashes were interred at Issoudun. She leaves to mourn, her children: Raymond (Louise Rioux) and Irène (Clarence Gamache); her grandchildren: Julie (Adam Vadnais), Danielle (Véronique Moro), Marie-Pier (Christophe Albanesi), Michel, Louise-Maude (François Bouchard), Olivier (Audrey Charbonneau) and Catherine (Alexandre Chagnon); her seven great-grandchildren; her sister-in-law, Lucille Bédard (the late Robert Ferland) and many nephews, nieces and friends.



**KIROUAC, PAUL
(1952-2023)**

At Maison Aube-Lumière (cancer palliative care home) in Sherbrooke, on 12 October 2023, aged 71, died Paul Kirouac (**GFK 00940**), son of the late Maurice Kirouac and the late Monique Pelletier. He leaves to mourn his partner, Lucie Lavigne, his son, Daniel (Natalie Saint-Laurent) and his grandson, Marc-Antoine, his brothers René and Gilles (Claire Lacroix), a niece, Annie (Jonathan Perron) and a nephew and godson, Philippe. A private ceremony will take place at the Warwick Cemetery at a later date. **Most people know Paul's brother, René, who was Master of Ceremony at L'Islet in 1980** at our first family gathering and later at KFA reunions at Warwick and Kingsey Falls.

**KIROUAC, ROLAND
(1936-2023)**

Roland Kirouac completed his journey to the far shore with nobility and grace, surrounded by family on 7 August 2023 at home in Orangeville, Ontario. Born on 26 November 1936 in Saint-Sauveur Parish in Quebec City, he was the son of Hervé Kirouac and Anne-Marie Gignac, and the grandson of Bruno Kirouac (**GFK 01174**) and Clara Patry. He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Sandra, his three sons Roland Jr (Jocelyn), Daniel (Denise) and Kevin (Parvaz), his grandchildren Alexandra, Lucas, Donovan, Mila, Naveed and Ava, his brother André, his sister Françoise, his niece Anne-Marie (Martin), and many more extended family members across Quebec. He was pre-deceased by his brothers Hervé Yves, Serge, and sister Rita. A private family service was held on 11 August 2023 at Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Orangeville, Ontario.

**MAHEUX, JEAN-PAUL
(1927-2023)**

At the Laval Hospital, on 18 August 2023, at 96, died Jean-Paul Maheux. He was the son of Blanche Kirouac (**GFK 00687**) and Joseph Maheux. A celebration was held at

the Funeral Home Réjean Hamel & Daughters Inc. at Loretteville on 23 September followed by interment at St-Charles Cemetery. He leaves to mourn his children: the late Jacques (Josée Poulin), Denis (Élena Odintsova), Francine (Claude Vermette), Sylvain (Nancy Gauthier), and his grandchildren: Catherine, Carole-Anne, Alexandre (Gerlie Bain), Gabriel, Mélanie (Patrick Poirier), Raphaëlle, Vincent; as well as his siblings: the late Colette (the late Gérard Turcotte), the late Jacqueline (the late Adrien Moisan), the late Louise (the late Yvan Landry), the late Roger (the late Claudette Mercier), the late Pierrette (Wood), the late Claude (the late Denise Gosselin), Murielle (the late Jacques Tremblay); many nephews and nieces.

**TÉTREAU, YVETTE
(1938-2023)**

At the Granby Hospital, on 26 September 2023, at 84, died Yvette Tétreault, first married to Robert Kéroack (**GFK 02513**) and later married to André Demers. Besides her second husband, she leaves to mourn her daughters: Chantal Kéroack (Sylvain Pelletier), Maryse Kéroack (Maurice David), Martine Kéroack (Daniel Vadnais); her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She also leaves her siblings: the late Richard (Thérèse Demers), Simon Tétreault (Monique Desbiens), the late Pierre; her sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law and many nephews, nieces and other relatives and friends. Her funeral was held at Sainte-Famille Church in Granby (Quebec) on 4 November 2023.

**TRAHOON, STEVEN M.
(1955-2023)**

Steven M. Trahoon, 67, of Topeka, Kansas, died on 19 September 2023. He was born 16 October 1955 in Topeka, the son of Floyd L. and Elizabeth M. (Paul) Trahoon. He is survived by one son, Kevin S. (Nicole) Trahoon, seven grandchildren, Brittany Puff, Brandan Trahoon, Tamara Puff, Christopher Puff, Desirae Trahoon,

Shamar Trahoon and Kylee Trahoon, one great-grandson, Riley Hundertfund; his siblings, Sue (Tim) Gaggero and Floyd (Debbie) Trahoon. Steve was preceded in death by his parents and one granddaughter, Ashlie Nicole Hundertfund. Services were held on 28 September 2023 at Highland Heights Christian Church, Tecumseh, Kansas, followed by burial in Topeka Cemetery. Steven was the cousin of Stacy Trahoon.

**VAN GILDER, FRED
(1952-2023)**

Fred Van Gilder, age 71, of Bradley, Illinois, died on 23 June 2023, at Riverside Medical Center. He was born 16 March 1952, to Earl and Mabel Curwick VanGilder. On 13 March 1990, he married Marsha Kemp, who were together for 43 years. He is survived by his beloved wife, Marsha VanGilder; two sons, Vince (Barb) VanGilder and Mike (Barb) Todd; two daughters, Cindy White and Deanne (Mike) Muss; nine grandsons; 16 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; two brothers, Everett and Raymond; and three sisters, Joyce (Dan) Benjamin, Bonnie Kohl, and Bonita (Glen) Morton. He was preceded in death by his parents; and four brothers, Roger, Vernon, Gene, and Kevin. A celebration of life was held on 8 July 2023, at the Bonfield Community Center/Lions Hall.



**Our Deepest Condolences
to the
Bereaved Families**

GENEALOGY / THE READERS PAGE

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

*With many thanks
François Kirouac*

Question 803

What is the name of the mother of Ivy Searston, wife of Gérard Kerouac, son of Fortunat Kérrouack and Élise Fournier? The couple was married on 19 December 1936 at Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Question 804

What are the names of the parents of Harry Shaw, spouse of Donna Kirouac, daughter of Roger Kirouac and Lorette Drouin? The couple was married on 29 July 1989 in Maine, USA.

Question 805

What are the names of the parents of Carmen Pinard, wife of Mark Kirouac (1962-2020), son of Roger Kirouac and Lorette Drouin? The couple was married on 1st September 1984 in Maine, USA.

Question 806

What are the names of the parents of Ethel Metcalf, wife of Lauréat Kerouac (1909-1995), son of Alexandre Kerouac and Méлина Fortier? The couple was married on 16 June 1940 at Dartford, County of Kent in England.

Question 807

What is the name of the father of Donald Hennessey, son of Joan Kerouac and grandson of Armand Kerouac and Alva Travers?

Question 808

What is the name of the wife of

Donald Hennessey whose first name is Theresa? Donald's mother is Joan Kerouac, daughter of Armand Kerouac and Alva Travers. Also, what is the first name of Donald Hennessey's father?

Question 809

What are the names of the parents of William Day, husband of Louise Kérrouack, daughter of Donat Kérrouack and Donald Bégin? The couple was married at Quebec City on 13 September 1969.

Question 810

What are the names of the parents of Lise Kirouac, spouse of Marcel Giroux. (see obituary on page 44 of this edition). Also, what are the names of the parents of Marcel Giroux.

Question 811

What are the names of the parents of Albert Desbiens, husband of Marie-Anne Kirouac, daughter of Damase Kirouac and Marie Rocan? The couple was married on 4 March 1950 at Stead, Manitoba, Canada.

Question 812

What are the names of the parents of Tammy Lowen, spouse of Norman Kirouac, son of Joseph (Joe) Kirouac and Bernadette André? The couple was married on 5 July 1980 in Ontario, Canada. Also, where exactly were they married?

Question 813

What are the names of the parents of Joan Scachury, wife of Roland Kirouac, son of Joseph (Joe) Kirouac and Bernadette André? The couple was married on 10 September 1972 in Ontario, Canada. Also, where exactly were they married?

Question 814

What are the names of the parents

of Walter Leutschaf, husband of Angèle Kirouac, daughter of Joseph (Joe) Kirouac and Bernadette André? The couple was married on July 1963 in Ontario. Also, where exactly were they married?

Question 815

What are the names of the parents of Joseph Lecompte, spouse of Yolande Kirouac, daughter of Joseph (Joe) Kirouac and Bernadette André? The couple was married in 1988 in Las Vegas, Nevada., USA. Also, what is the exact date of the wedding?

Question 816

What are the names of the parents of Bernadette André, wife of Joseph (Joe) Kirouac, son of Damase Kirouac and Marie Rocan? The couple was married on 12 June 1944 at Saint-Boniface, Manitoba, Canada.

Question 817

What is the name of the mother of Sylvia Normand, wife of Jean-Marie Kirouac, son of Trefflé Kirouac and Marie-Louise Parent? The couple was married in 1967 at Saint-Vital, Manitoba, Canada. Also, what is the exact date of the wedding?

Question 818

What are the names of the parents of Thomas Boychuk, husband of Thérèse Kirouac, daughter of Trefflé Kirouac and Marie-Louise Parent? The couple was married at Saint-Vital, Manitoba, Canada. Also what is the exact date of the wedding?

Question 819

What are the names of the parents of Daryl Poitras, spouse of Rachelle Kirouac, daughter of Paul Kirouac and Marguerite Bisson? The couple was married on 2 June 1984 at Sainte-Anne-des-Chênes, Manitoba, Canada.

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*.

KIROUAC FAMILY ASSOCIATION - BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2023-2024

PRESIDENT

François Kirouac (00715)
Lévis (Québec)

TREASURER

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COUNSELLOR

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Stoneham (Québec)

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Québec (Québec)

COUNSELLOR

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COUNSELLOR

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Québec (Québec)

Region 4

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EASTERN TOWNSHIPS

Nicole Kirouac
Stoneham and Tewkesbury (Québec)

Region 7

UNITED STATES

EASTERN TIME ZONE

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Region 2

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Nicole Kirouac
Stoneham and Tewkesbury (Québec)

Region 5

SAGUENAY, LAC-SAINT-JEAN

Mercédès Bolduc
Chicoutimi (Québec)

CENTRAL TIME ZONE

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Ashland, IL - USA

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CÔTE-DU-SUD,
BAS-SAINT-LAURENT,
GASPÉSIE AND MARITIMES

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Saint-François-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud
(Québec)

Region 6

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WESTERN PROVINCES

Georges Kirouac (01663)
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AND REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES/CORRESPONDENTS

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JACK KEROUAC OBSERVATORY

Responsible: Eric Waddell

MARIE-VICTORIN OBSERVATORY

Responsible: Lucie Jasmin

BOOKS & SOUVENIRS

Renald Kérouack

PRODUCTS & AUDIO-VISUAL ARCHIVES

Vacant

PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

François Kirouac
President of the KFA Board

SOCIAL MEDIA

Marc Villeneuve, Interim

Our Motto

Pride Dignity Integrity



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Alexandre DuRoach

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