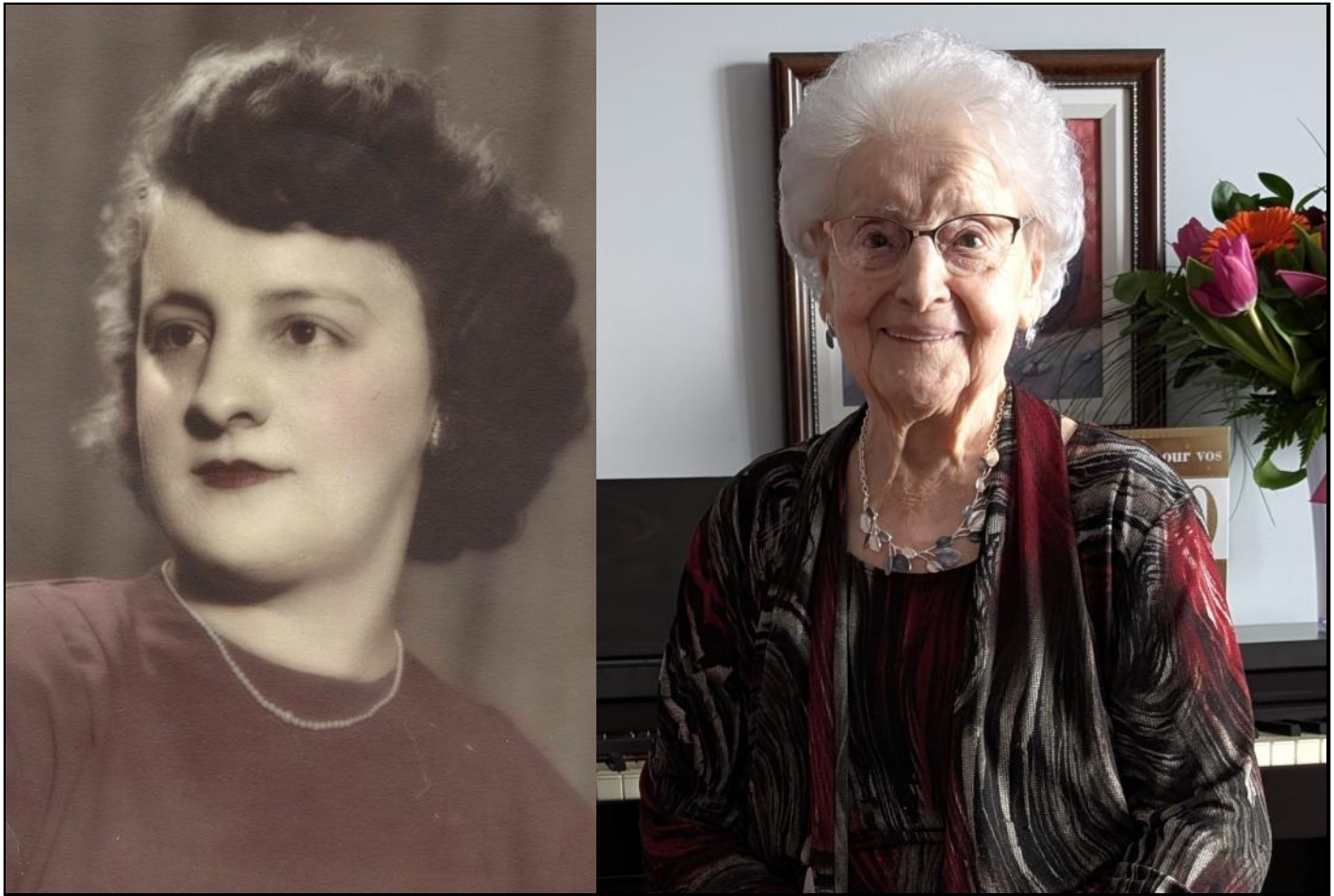


Spring 2026      Number 150

# Le Trésor des Kirouac

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



On 18 February 2026, Gisèle Bergeron-Kirouac celebrated her 100th birthday. A member of a family at the heart of our Association, she is the wife of the late co-founder Bruno Kirouac and the mother of François Kirouac, who was also co-founder and president of the Association for nearly two decades (2005-2024).

- ✦ Kirouac
- ✦ Kérouac
- ✦ Keroac
- ✦ Kéroack
- ✦ Breton
- ✦ Curwack
- ✦ Kirouack
- ✦ Kérouack
- ✦ Keroack
- ✦ Kyrouac
- ✦ Burton
- ✦ Curwick
- ✦

## ***Le Trésor des Kirouac***

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# The President's Word

Hello everyone,

Already three months into 2026, all looking forward to the nice weather to spring on us soon, but for the time being I hope you are in good health, near your dear ones and that your wishes become reality.

Some anniversaries will be featured this year. Two hundred years ago François Kirouac, the future knight, was born; thirty years ago, Janet Kerouac, Jack's only daughter died. Sixty years ago, Jack published his biographical novel, *Satori in Paris*. The story of his trip in search of his Breton and Celtic ancestors! Indeed, time flies. In this issue you will discover our younger Treasures born in 2025 . . . on whose shoulders rest the future of our surname.

Talking of Treasure! As we were completing this Trésor 150, I heard about such important news that I said to François Kirouac, "Let's kill the headline", as the popular media expression goes. Thus, I proposed to retire the planned first page (you will see it on page 7) and replaced it by GOOD WISHES. François's mother, Gisèle Bergeron-Kirouac just celebrated her 100th birthday on 18 February 2026! One hundred years is more than a simple calendar date; it is a real treasure in the proper sense of the word!

In the name of all the Kirouacs, of all their relatives, of all their friends near and far anywhere on our planet, to Mrs. Gisèle Bergeron-Kirouac, I offer my most sincere, heartfelt wishes for great health allowing you to stay much longer with your close family members, your relatives, your friends and us all. So, dear readers, we offer you a complete original journey through time and space.

Naturally, you will read an homage to Mrs. Gisèle Bergeron-Kirouac before we tackle the chosen theme for this *Trésor* number 150 and offer you a second front page!

A journey through time because I think it is important to stress what can be achieved when using the incredible genealogical data compiled by François Kirouac in the last forty years. By following the chronology of our forebears, you will see what we owe to one couple, the Le Bourdais - Couillard!

As we traverse 200 years of history, on land and sea, we will land in the Arctic Ocean in the Far North. A final destination at the heart of our geopolitical concerns in today's world. In the following pages, I leave it to you to read and understand this familial-historical-Nordic mixture.

In this issue, we will also talk about a recurring question: how to maintain on a long-term basis, our bulletin *Le Trésor*? We are facing issues ranging from printing/shipping cost versus income, excluding the time and energy a few people devote to it three times a year. The Board members studied the situation and came to a decision; read on.

The conclusion will affect us all: the annual membership that has been the same for some two decades must be increased, from \$22/year, it will be \$30/year. Let's compare: \$22 in 2000, with inflation is now \$40. Producing our bulletin, even given all the free volunteers' work, costs have increased with no equivalent rise in our revenue, so a minimal adjustment is essential.



André Kirouac

In 2026, besides cost and membership, two other subjects will be studied by the Board. In May, we will discuss the future of our annual gatherings because year after year the number of participants diminishes. Then, about the membership: how to counter the decrease and especially to increase the number of members.

Before asking you a question, I want to sincerely thank all the Board members for their collaboration, Greg, Cathy, Nathalie, Danielle, Stéphane and René. I also wish to thank all those who collaborate to *Le Trésor* and its research especially in genealogy, François Kirouac's particular domain. If all goes as planned, his incredible huge data will be online by the end of this year.

Now my question is: Over the years, the membership has been declining. A few years ago, we were around 140 members; last year, we were only 115, and for 2026, so far only 92 people have renewed. We are particularly and desperately short of new younger members.



# Life in Harmony: Homage to Our Mother for Her 100th Birthday

By Daniel and François Kirouac

Our mother was celebrated on four occasions. The fourth one, on 28 February, was a particularly special one as all close family members were present: children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, her sister, her brother-in-law, her nephews and nieces and some friends!

## Deep Roots in Warwick

Our mother, born in 1926, in Warwick, was the daughter of Wellie Bergeron and Mathilda Lachance. Her father was a foreman in a large manufacturing company in Warwick, *The Dominion Comb and Novelty Company*. The company had an English name, of course, because that was the tradition then. Today it is known as *Plastique DCN*. One of Mathilda's nephews, Fernand Lachance, made history as he is credited for inventing the "poutine" at Warwick in 1957<sup>1</sup>.

In the nineteen twenties, mother was born in a typical large family, she was the eighth of twelve children: six boys and six girls. Two of her sisters sadly died very young, one at three and the other at four.

## Music

In the Bergeron family, music was an essential part of life. Her father, Willie, played the violin and loved to make his children sing and dance; her mother, Mathilda, loved singing. Gisèle's two older brothers, Robert and Paul, studied piano. They were all talented. Our mother loved music, too, and growing up she loved to sit quietly and listen to music, so much so, sometimes her eyes teared up. And they were all talented. At eighteen, mother learned to play the piano, graciously taught by Joseph, one of her older brothers.

Many more memories flood back. She also remembers that her father, Wellie, would boil together molasses, sugar and a few other ingredients and turn it into what was then called Sainte-Catherine's taffy.



Photo: François Kirouac collection

Celebrating a centennial: Gisèle Bergeron-Kirouac and her children, François, Daniel, Louise and Christian, at the reception held at the Residence Le Victorin, on 26 February. This was one of the four events to mark her 100th birthday.

He also knew how to make popcorn and sucre à la crème\* for the children. Grandpa Wellie even taught our grandma Mathilda how to knit! Her first masterpiece was a pair of mittens.

(\*If you do not have your French-Canadian great-grandmother's recipe, look up French-Canadian Fudge on the internet.)

## Growing up - Trials before adulthood

Life was very difficult for Gisèle. It all started when she was only six years old. Her mother, Mathilda, nearly died at 43, when giving birth to twins, a girl, Raymonde, and a boy, Claude. Childbirth did not go well, and the doctor thought she might not survive the night. So, he suggested to our grandfather to let the parish priest know immediately. Thank God, our grandmother was stronger than he thought. Not only did she survive that night, but she even lived to see her 97th birthday!

Mother had to start school, and, just like her siblings, learning was easy for her. However, rather unusual at the time, she found herself in classes including boys and girls.

## Sports

Our mother always loved sports. After supper, with a young neighbour she used to play throwing and catching balls. She also loved to watch people play tennis. However, at the time, tennis courts were private and unless you belonged to the wealthy class, or were their guests, there was never any chance to do so.<sup>2</sup> If only she had been born a few decades later, she could

<sup>1</sup> See *Le Trésor des Kirouac* (number 130, Summer 2019, pp 32-33) and (number 144, Spring 2024, page 35).

have become a great tennis player ... or at least have the possibility of enjoying playing tennis with her friends.

### Working in a factory and developing a social conscience

Mother completed her elementary schooling but that was the end of her studies. Her father fell ill and lost his job. The family could no longer afford to pay for her studies and her father's care. So, our mother started working in the family grocery that opened a year later. For two years, she worked every afternoon at the grocery and in the morning, she did the housework at home to help her mother.

Around the age of fifteen, her parents told her that she had to get a job to help the family financially<sup>3</sup>. Hence, she went to work in a factory like her older siblings. As she loved learning and school so much, factory work was the opposite to what she really planned to do in life! Desperately wanting to avoid working in a factory, she went to Mass every morning for two months, asking for a miracle that, sadly, did not materialize!!!

Our mother always had back problems. She can remember that sometimes it was so bad that she had to stop working and the company truck would bring her home. The company she worked at was the Warwick Woolen Mills Limited belonging to Onésime Kirouac. *She worked about nine years at the factory and, as you will see, she developed a remarkable social commitment.*

On Tuesday, 3 September 1946, the **SHERBROOKE TRIBUNE** published an article about the industrial golden anniversary of Onésime Kirouac: (translation of the article) *Miss Gisèle Bergeron, on behalf of the company's employees, thanked the directors for treating all women workers on*



The parents of Gisèle, Wellie Bergeron and Mathilda Lachance on their wedding day, Warwick (Québec), 5 May 1913.  
(Photo: François Kirouac collection)

*the same footing as the men; a superb bouquet of roses was presented to Mrs. Kirouac (NDLR, Orise Cantin) by her niece Solange Bergeron Limited.*<sup>4</sup>

### Meeting at a Crossroads — JOC

Having been surrounded by music all her life, at eighteen our mother started to learn piano, and was even invited to lead the *Enfants de Marie* (Mary's children) choir a girls-only group, found in almost all churches through Quebec then. Although she had no experience at conducting a choir, she gladly accepted the challenge. The previous year she had joined the JOC, *Jeunesse Ouvrière Catholique*, the Catholic Youth organisation found in almost every parish at the time. This movement was quite an eye-opener for this naturally reserved young lady. She gave the best she had, and she soon became the president of the women's section. So many good memories she keeps of those years. She loved it and enjoyed being part of it.

Destiny had something else in store for her. The president of the men's section was none other than Bruno Kirouac whom she would marry a few years later. In parish churches then, each family had a reserved pew, and the bench of the Bergerons and that of the Kirouacs were next to each other. However, later mother admitted that she had never noticed Bruno in the church. What she remembers were her two younger sisters who were not in the least interested in boys at the time!

Eventually, the inter-regional meetings and dinners with other sections, in Victoriaville and Drummondville or other towns, gave them the opportunities to meet and after working together on various common projects they got to know each other and better appreciate each other.

<sup>2</sup> One of the tennis courts in Warwick was on the property of Onésime Kirouac, located on Rue de l'Hôtel de Ville (city hall street) about five minutes' walk from their family home.

<sup>3</sup> When working then, she remembers keeping only pennies because it was all her contribution to the household expenses.

<sup>4</sup> See the document about Guy Kirouac on the KFA website: **Available in French Only** — [Guy Kirouac Industriel de Warwick Version 15 février 2024.pdf](#)

As for romantic dating, it lasted two years because at the end of the nineteen-forties, guidelines were strictly established. The future groom, Bruno, came to his future parents-in-law on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. Before that time, mother for a while had considered becoming a nun because spiritual life attracted her; however, thanks to the wise advice of a nun, and of course to Bruno's attraction, she was finally led towards another vocation: starting a family. The marriage was celebrated on 24 June 1950 in Warwick. It was the beginning of a partnership that lasted for decades.

**The foundation of a home  
and the expansion of the family**

True to their values of community support, Mom and Dad kept up their social commitment within the Catholic Church and a few years later conducted marriage preparation sessions for future couples in their parish.

Babies arrived, first François, then Louise and Christian. They wanted a larger family, but mother's health problems changed their plans. Finally, in the early nineteen sixties, doctors having found the problem, mother was given some medication, and two other children joined the brood, Daniel and Michel (1966-2011). Now our mother is the happy grandmother of eight and great-grandmother of six.

**Music, Dance and Sports  
Bring New Rhythm to Life**

The beginning of the nineteen-seventies turned out to be the beginning of a wonderful adventure for our parents on the dance floor. They enjoyed it so much that Saturday evenings were transformed into essential rendezvous to waltz and socialise with friends. What had started as a pleasant leisure occupation soon turned into a passion leading them to competition.

Music was forever part of our mother's life. She sang in the Warwick Choir for decades. She even sang in two choirs simultaneously because she enjoyed it so much. Not only as a singer but also as a competent choir director, she really loved that responsibility and enjoyed replacing the choir director whenever needed.

When our two youngest siblings, Michel and Daniel, got involved in sports, mother started to listen to hockey and baseball on the radio and watch it on the telly. Even at 100, she is still a faithful fan of the Montreal CANADIENS and the Toronto BLUE JAYS.

**Unwavering Bond -  
Kirouac and Bergeron Roots**

For years, our parents took part in all the numerous Kirouac gatherings. In 1990, at Kamouraska, Jacques Kirouac, the KFA founder, underlined the fact that they were the only couple who had attended all KFA



Photo: François Kirouac

On Sunday, 22 February 2026, at Residence Le Victorin in Victoriaville (Quebec) the Warwick choir came to sing for the jubilarian. Here she stands with the choir director, Suzanne Jalbert Mérette, a long-time friend and colleague with whom she shares her passion for singing and has done so for over thirty years.



Photo: François Kirouac collection

Bruno Kirouac and Gisèle Bergeron on their wedding day, 24 June 1950, Warwick (Québec).

gatherings since our Association was created in 1978<sup>5</sup>. Not only did they take part in all the KFA activities, but they also organized three gatherings in Warwick, their native town, in 1979, 1985 and 1999.

Hospitality and family love were always our parents' characteristics. For decades, family reunions, like the traditional Sunday dinners and all great annual celebrations were held in our home. Mother and Father had their own special warm way to welcome their many relatives. What a wonderful legacy they left to their children and grandchildren: family events celebrated at home were always open to the Kirouacs and the Bergerons.

The Bergerons were endlessly great card players. Sunday evenings were always well attended at the Bergeron grandparents and Gisèle played with her siblings as well as some nephews and nieces. Once our grandparents were gone, the tradition remained and the various participants hosted the Sunday evening card playing sessions in turns in their homes.

It is during one of those card games that an audacious idea was born: a trip to Florida to visit Joseph. Thus, our mother with her sisters and sisters-in-law went and it turned out into a legendary expedition due to Rita finding a dress for ten cents in a flea-market and her dentures that nearly disappeared in the ocean waves. These happy events and many other memories have kept everyone in stitches ever since.

### **New Challenges and Diocesan Award**

In her fifties, mother and some of her sisters and sisters-in-law decided to learn to swim. Mother loved water but was terribly afraid of it. So, she had to find some courage to take swimming lessons which she did for many years. With time, swimming became 'aquaforme' classes (exercises popular with those non-so-young anymore). However, she never managed to convince father to join her. He did not like water!

In July 1987, father sold his furniture shop in order to enjoy a well-deserved



On 26 February 2026, at a special reception held at *Le Victorin* in Victoriaville, where she lives, Gisèle Bergeron-Kirouac was officially honoured. To mark her centennial, political representatives of both federal and provincial governments came to present her with gifts and pay homage to her long and fruitful life. (Photo courtesy of the office of Éric Lefebvre, conservative MP for Richmond-Arthabaska County)



January First was always a traditional must-attend feast where Gisèle and Bruno welcomed their close relatives. On New Year's Day 1981, this was the last time all the members of the whole family were together. From left to right: behind: Richard Kirouac (1919-1995), Gisèle Bergeron, Marcel Bolduc (1935-1997), Fernand Kirouac (1918-1983), Monique Kirouac (1929-2019), Marielle Turcotte (1923-2008) and Bruno Kirouac (1926-2019). Sitting in front: Jeanne-D'Arc Cantin (1922-2010), Roger Kirouac (1919-1995) and Thérèse Lambert (1926-2022). (Photo: François Kirouac)

<sup>5</sup> See the bulletin called *LeBris de Kéroack* (number 21, October 1990, page 10).

retirement. Let's say that mother as well as us children, we were worried that knowing him as a hard worker, he would soon be bored but we should not have worried, his active temperament quickly took over. And our parents used those first years of freedom to explore new horizons with our sister Louise and her family. Among various destinations, they explored James Bay and the Maritimes.

Towards the end of the nineteen-nineties, they launched into a really important project: writing a book to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Warwick Parish Church, Saint-Médard. It was a colossal enterprise, and the remarkable quality of the document was rewarded by the *Médaille du mérite diocésain* (Diocesan Merit Award) presented to them by the Bishop of Nicolet.

**A New Page: A New Life at Residence Le Victorin**

In 2011, at 86, they decided to sell the family home<sup>6</sup> and move to a seniors' residence. This transition followed the premature death of their youngest son, Michel, who had passed away earlier that year. At the end of November, they settled at *Résidence Le Victorin* in Victoriaville, where our mother is still living fourteen years later.

Mother remains very active in this new abode. At a hundred-years-young, she still cooks her own meals. And as music is always alive in her soul, early on she organized a choir and directed it too. It is still very active today. Nowadays, she listens more often than she sings but, sometimes, she leads certain songs.

After a few years, father started to lose his memory and his autonomy. It did not deter our mother who kept looking after him until she could no longer do it on her own. Father died in 2019. But thankfully, our mother is still surrounded by her family.

It has been a full and satisfying life!



<sup>6</sup> Historical note: this is the house built by our mother's uncle, Adjutor Lachance, father of Fernand, future creator of the famous "poutine" at Warwick in 1957; our parents lived in that house from 1954 on. See F-5.12.1.4+Self-Guided+Historical+Tour+Warwick; page 9 on the KFA website: [Warwick.pdf](#)



Warwick, 1999. Bruno Kirouac and Gisèle Bergeron with the Bishop of Nicolet, Monseigneur Raymond St-Gelais, presenting them with a certificate and the *Médaille du mérite diocésain*, (Diocesan Merit Award). (Photo: Bruno Kirouac collection)



Gisèle Bergeron-Kirouac, A Life in Harmony (Photo: François Kirouac collection)

# OUR NEWEST LITTLE TREASURES AND SOME GROWING UP WISH YOU A WONDERFUL 2026



Florence



Avery



Pier-Olivier and Jules  
in his arms



Leon



Helene



Teddy



Elliana



Selah



Sam and Silas



Serena

Spring 2026

Number 150

# Le Trésor des Kirouac

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

## The Sea, The Arctic, A World Gone Crazy and The Kirouacs



Kirouac  
Kirouack



Kérouac  
Kérouack



Keroac  
Keroack



Kéroack  
Kyrouac



Breton  
Burton



Curwack  
Curwick



# The Sea, The Arctic, A World Gone Crazy and The Kirouacs!

by André Kirouac, 3 February 2026

**Editor's note:** Refer to the tables on pages 18 and 20 for a good understanding of the family ties mentioned.

The seas, sailors and dangers, and the greed the oceans trigger. What a mouthful rant to begin an article on a theme that, at first, seems to me quite far from the Kirouacs. Our friend, Marie Lussier Timperley, suggested this idea, probably thinking, so I presume, that by combining the Arctic Ocean with today's political issues and Captain Joseph-Elzéar Bernier could be an interesting subject for the readers.

The link between the captain and the Kirouacs appeared rather thin to me, his step-daughter having married Cyrille Kirouac, the father of Conrad, Brother Marie-Victorin. But as you know me by now, you probably imagined that, expecting more I would look for more. Was I ever satisfied! If some of you are still wondering why François Kirouac has been working for well over forty years on our family genealogy, here is a clear proof of its utility, if that is still needed. The following example shows what genealogy hides in plain sight and can reveal when we use it.

Before starting my search, I figured that I would be talking about Kirouacs and Berniers, but soon found out I was way off the track. As at first, it all started with a Le Bourdais family. One couple in particular: Joseph Le Bourdais and Marie-Marthe Couillard, who were married at L'Islet on 14 July 1807. They are the base of the pyramid.

This couple had at least four children, Louis-Joseph, Jean-Baptiste, Marie-Marthe and Catherine. First, let's say that their descendants' special destiny completely changed the direction taken by this branch of our family, even including myself. Follow me to see how within a few paragraphs, we will sail across two-hundred years and land in the Arctic Ocean, of course.

On 21 October 1828, in L'Islet, Louis-Joseph Le Bourdais married **Marcelline Kirouac**. Among their children, one daughter, Joséphine Le Bourdais married Pierre-Alphonse Caron, whose son **Ernest Caron**, became Captain. Now, you guessed it: Captain Ernest Caron and his wife adopted a lovely two-year-old girl, little **Émilie**, or **Mimi Kirouac**. She became a very nice lady known for riding dozens of miles every week and always stopping for a chat on our front porch at L'Islet.

This is a first link between some Kirouacs and the sea. As you may probably know, Ernest Caron was a famous sailor who captained, among other ships, the **Fleurus**<sup>1</sup>. He was also one of the instigators of the **Association des marins de L'Islet** (1920) (L'Islet's Sailors Association) which, eventually, created the **Bernier Maritime Museum** (1968).

On 26 January 1841, at L'Islet, Jean-Baptiste **Le Bourdais** married Appoline **Bernier** from another sailing family, and Captain Jean-Baptiste also had salted water in his veins. He died in 1870 in one historic storm near the Magdalen Islands. It is a famous story, not so much because of him but because of his son, Auguste, who was the **Wasp's** first mate<sup>2</sup>. Auguste survived but both his legs had to be amputated. He was married in the Magdalen Islands and became its first telegrapher. The tragic story of the

**Wasp** and its only survivor, Auguste, is well known. As an extra note: for many years, Auguste's crutches were exhibited at the Bernier Maritime Museum in L'Islet<sup>3</sup>!

Now we come to another sailor, not a Kirouac by birth but he counted many Kirouac aunts and uncles. Do you think I have forgotten to mention a sailor in this branch of the family? Yes, and I am doing so on purpose.

On 24 February 1835, at L'Islet, **Catherine Le Bourdais** married **Joseph Kirouac**. I am skipping details on purpose to keep talking about the Kirouacs. So, Joseph Kirouac and Catherine begat **Simon-Alexandre**, who in turn begat another **Joseph**, who begat **Jean-Thomas**, and, yes, begat **Jacques Kirouac** who created our family association. They may not have been sailors but by launching the KFA, Jacques captained our family association on a genealogical adventure on an uncharted sea linking Brittany and Canada.

Am I forgetting Captain Bernier? No. Certainly not. Let us go back to the couple Jean-Baptiste Le Bourdais and Appoline Bernier, whom we were just talking about. Their daughter, Geneviève, who married Jean-Baptiste Bernier, on 8 January 1811. Here, it becomes thrilling. Geneviève Le Bourdais and Jean-Baptiste Bernier had a son, **Thomas Bernier**, another

<sup>1</sup> Ernest Caron Ernest Caron from L'Islet was the Captain of the SS Fleurus supplying the Quebec North Shore all the way to Anticosti Island from 1926 to 1942.

<sup>2</sup> Auguste Le Bourdais's story in Le Trésor des Kirouac, number 107, Spring 2012, pp.7-13.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

captain and ship builder who had a son, **Joseph-Elzéar**, named the “Baby of the Year”, as he was born on the 1st of January 1852. So the story of our famous explorer starts on a promising note. But it is only the beginning.



Elmina Caron (1875-1972), adopted daughter of Captain Joseph-Elzéar Caron. (Photo: KFA)

At that time, let’s mention again that his step-daughter **Elmina Caron** married **Cyrille Kirouac**, father of **Conrad**, Brother Marie-Victorin<sup>4</sup>, who had five sisters, the eldest, **Adelcie**, Mother Marie-des-Anges<sup>5</sup> (Mother of Angels).

And now, when it comes to the sea and sailors, we are in for a treat. On 21 October 1828, at L’Islet, **Marie-Marthe Le Bourdais** married **Firmin Kirouac**. Again I am skipping the details, to talk

only about the children. They had a son called **Anselme**, who had a son called **Wilfrid**, who, with his second wife, had a son called **Conrad**, none other than my father!

No sailor yet? In a moment: June 1977, many sailors in L’Islet decided to do something about a young man who kept hanging around them, even with them, and too often was in their way. As a result, Captain Martin Caron had no choice but to hire me to work at the **Bernier Maritime Museum**<sup>6</sup>.

This is where my vocation started literally diving head-first into maritime life. Fifty years later I am still navigating. I even got to know Captain Bernier as if I had lived his life. In 1982, talking about him in an American museum, I personified him. In 1984, playing that part, I symbolically married his first wife, Rose de Lima Caron. Many years later, in 2021, he was the star of a talk I gave at the University of Lisbon in Portugal. The title of my communication was **Fluid Frontiers – Passages to War**.

So, here we all are, Captain Bernier, me, the Kirouacs and the current situation in the Arctic Ocean, the most coveted passage between countries and continents. I hope you are still following me from north and south of the 49th parallel and the Canadian Far North. Let’s glance into the talk I gave in Lisbon in 2021.

**On the 1st of July, 1909**, Canada Day, the explorer Joseph-Elzéar Bernier, unveiled a plaque on Melville Island, north of the Arctic Circle and in the name of Canada took possession of the Arctic lands and coasts<sup>7</sup>. The proclaimed coastal boundaries included the Northwest Passage<sup>8</sup>, the famous coveted waterway connecting the Atlantic to the Pacific. For at least four centuries, sailors had dreamt of sailing through this



Among the descendants of Anselme (1849-1921) and Domithilde Boulet (1853-1935) are two pillars of the KFA: André Kirouac, the current president, and René Kirouac, who has been in charge of treasury management since 1990. Anselme was the son of Firmin (1807-1873) and Marie-Marthe Le Bourdais and the cousin of Auguste Le Bourdais, who was shipwrecked in the Magdalen Islands. (Photo: KFA collection)

northern passage in search of a route to the Indies. Nowadays, a shorter, ice-free route between the Pacific and the Atlantic sparks just as many ambitions to improve the economies of many countries.

The Far North is still highly coveted. Canada claims its ownership, the USA wants to make it an international passage.

These coastal borders, solid for millennia, are becoming increasingly more fluid. Passages that were once covered in ice are now becoming navigable waterways. Territories rich in unique natural resources, inhabited by peoples proud of their roots, are highly sought-after, and when land or riches are coveted, wars may loom. The risk of conflict touches these fragile lands at a time when Canada is building six heavily armed Arctic patrol ships to be used by the Royal Canadian Navy. Yet, viewed

<sup>4</sup> See *Trésor des Kirouac Special Edition, number 3, Summer 2016, Brother Marie-Victorin*, born Conrad Kirouac: in French only. NOTE: The special edition has not yet been translated into English, but see Le Trésor # 145, Summer 2024

[Hors-série 3 généalogie Marie-Victorin.pdf](#)

<sup>5</sup> See *Trésor des Kirouac Special Edition, number 7, Spring 2019, Adelcie Kirouac*, Conrad’s sister, in religious congregation called, Mother Marie-des Anges.

[Hors serie 7 Mere Marie-des-Anges.pdf](#)

<sup>6</sup> Bilingual website of the Bernier Maritime Museum at L’Islet-sur-Mer: <https://www.mmq.qc.ca/>

<sup>7</sup> Captain Bernier was strongly supported by Sir Wilfrid Laurier (1841-1919), Canadian Prime Minister, 1896-1911.

<sup>8</sup> See: [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passage\\_du\\_Nord-Ouest](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passage_du_Nord-Ouest)

from the sky above, the Arctic borders are neither solid nor fluid; they simply do not exist.

It is easy to think that the melting of Arctic ice could lead to wars, for at least two reasons, you can choose: either for free international passage between East and West, or for access to the Arctic's exceptional natural resources<sup>9</sup>. Given how easily humans go to war, yes, one can foresee wars in the near future; but that may not be so sure. Let's take a closer look.

First question: Have there been any wars in the Arctic in the past? The answer is yes but that was a long time ago, in 1697, and it was for hats! The top hats popular in Europe then were made of beaver pelts famous for their durable and waterproof fur! So beavers were hunted.

During the 17th century, the Northern territories were particularly important for France and Great Britain<sup>10</sup>. It was essential to facilitate fur trading with the indigenous peoples particularly to keep controlling the beaver trade?

On 5 September 1697, Pierre Lemoyne, Sieur D'Iberville led the one and only naval battle ever fought in the Arctic Ocean, precisely in the Hudson Bay. The French then controlled the coastal commercial forts on part of the Arctic territories.

But it all changed in 1713 when France and Great Britain signed the Treaty of Utrecht<sup>11</sup> by which the British asserted their sovereignty over the Far North lands. Then in 1763, after winning the Seven Years War in Europe against the French, the British proclaimed their sovereignty over North America.

The situation changed again after the *American War of Independence* in 1776. And again in 1867, when the *British North America Act* was signed, creating a new country, Canada. Then the Far North was divided in two territories fundamentally ruled by a private society de facto controlling all the trading posts. As for the Arctic archipelago, nothing was clear concerning its ownership. Was it Canadian then? Good question.

Very soon the Canadian parliament decided to make sure the Arctic territories were included in our new country. Between 1904 and 1925, Captain Bernier (a native from my own native town, L'Islet-sur-Mer, in Quebec) convinced the Canadian Prime Minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, to explore the Arctic archipelago to affirm Canada's sovereignty over the Arctic islands as well as the Arctic Ocean.



Le Bourdais family, front row, from left to right: Louis, husband of Marie Kirouac, Auguste, who was shipwrecked in the Magdalen Islands, and his wife, Émilienne Renaud; second row, in the same order, Édouard, Joseph and Augustin (sons). (Photo: Guy Le Bourdais collection)

On the 1st of July, 1909, Bernier unveiled a plaque on Melville Island and declared that the whole archipelago was part of Canada, i.e., that it belonged to Canada, including all the islands, all the waterways and the North-West Passage linking the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The USA has contested this claim since. But in 1969, the American oil tanker, SS Manhattan, sailed through the North-West Passage assisted by a Canadian ice-breaker.

Yet, the status of the North-West Passage has always been viewed very differently by Canada and the USA. But it is not a reason for war. Agreements exist between our two countries. For example, the United States always seeks the permission of Canada before navigating through the North-West Passage.

The ownership of the North Pole is also disputed. In 2007, because the **Lomonosov Ridge**<sup>12</sup> connects its territory to the North Pole, Russia planted its flag on the North Pole seabed to prove, according to them, Russian ownership of the region and its resources. Is there a risk of war over this issue? Not really; currently, no country desires to go to war over that.

<sup>9</sup> Among others: Rare earths.

<sup>10</sup> In 1670, The Hudson Bay Company, founded by a Royal Charter of Charles II, controlled the fur Trade in Rupert's Land, corresponding to today's Canadian territories covering Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Nunavut.

<sup>11</sup> In 1713, by the Treaty of Utrecht, France and Great-Britain divided between them the North American continent.

<sup>12</sup> See : [https://www.wikiwand.com/fr/articles/Dorsale\\_de\\_Lomonossov](https://www.wikiwand.com/fr/articles/Dorsale_de_Lomonossov)

Now let us look at other aspects that could generate a war about the Far North's frontiers. The various countries' borders are not contested, nor are the maritime limits, which consist in a line drawn 200 nautical miles off the coasts of each of these countries.

As Frédéric Lasserre<sup>13</sup> from Laval University in Quebec City writes, and I quote: "Claims on Arctic maritime zones are old, but many agreements have been signed, notably between the United States and Russia. When a settlement cannot be worked out, conflict rarely escalates. Contrary to its image as a major conflict zone, many maritime border disputes have been solved there."

The likelihood of wars resulting from a conflict over borders is certainly not obvious. But what about a war over natural resources? We can assume that natural resources located within each country's borders are not disputed either. At sea, scientists and politicians also believe that issues can be resolved through negotiation. I know that everything can change rapidly, but right now, this is the case. Can we assume that it will be the same in the near future? To answer this question, we need to go back in time, as far back as 1595.

At the Centre for Northern Studies at Laval University, in Quebec City, researchers have conducted fascinating studies regarding the MERCATOR MAP<sup>14</sup>. I quote: "What we see on the Mercator Map would thus correspond to the ice coverage in the Middle Ages, during a period of global warming that could resemble what we might face in forty or fifty years. Hence we can assume that in forty years, navigation in the Northern Passage may be easier."

So much can change in forty years. Will oil and gas be as much needed then as they are now? How important will be solar energy and hydro-electricity? If that is so, may I suppose that future wars will not be about gas or minerals, and not even about the North-West Passage? Does it mean that our future will be peaceful? I am not so sure.

Here are my main two concerns. The Maslow pyramid identifies the fundamental needs of human beings<sup>15</sup>. Given the climate changes for the next forty to a hundred years we can somewhat imagine how important it will be for countries to accede to the physiological needs of their populations ... like water, for example. As an American Colonel declared: *Will the future be forever dominated by the constant fight between wealthy and needy?* The answer is yes, definitely.

Societies and peoples always want to improve their lot and that of their descendants. Limited resources breed competitions; if there is no control, that could lead to

violence and to some kind of war. Countries like Canada, for one, collect icebergs (to mix with alcoholic beverages). Some people are already trying to figure out ways to drag some icebergs southward. What will it be like in a few decades?

My second concern is about straits and canals because they play a central role when countries are at war. In July 1956, Egypt nationalised the Suez Canal, and we know what happened next. (if you need to refresh your memory by reading about the conflict, enter "Suez Canal in 1956" on a search engine).

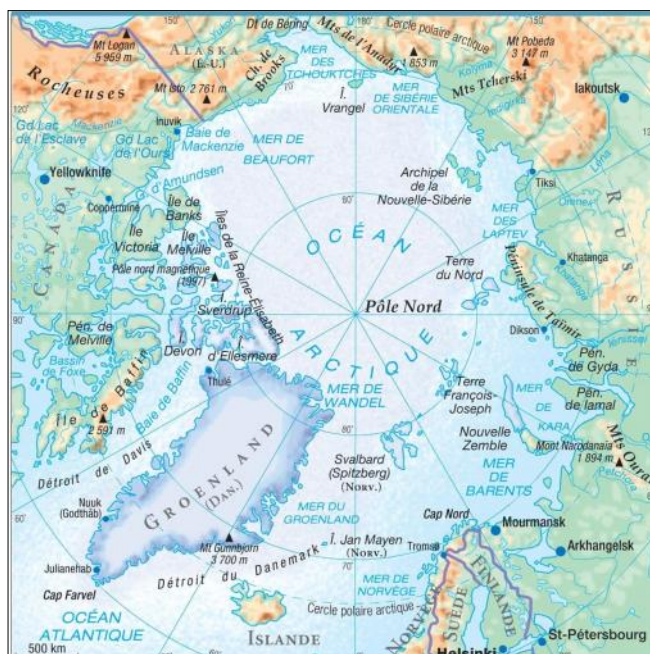
This brought me to insist on the importance of the Bering Strait between Russia and the USA. If, at one point, a war were to break out, I think that it would be to control the Bering strait linking East and West...

As we all know, history repeats itself again and again. So, who is willing to go to war no matter what? Russia is

<sup>13</sup> Lasserre, Dr. Frédéric, NAADSN Fellow. Since 2001, he is a professor in the Department of Geography at Laval University (Quebec City). He acted as Project Director with the international ArcticNet research network. He conducted extensive research in the field of Arctic geopolitics, water management, transport geopolitics. (2004) web link: <https://doi.org/10.7202/011799ar>.

<sup>14</sup> In French only: HAMELIN, Louis-Edmond, Stéfano BIONDO et Joe BOUCHARD, L'Apparition du Nord selon Gérard Mercator, Québec, Septentrion, 2013, 192 pages.

<sup>15</sup> In the 1940s Maslow created a five-tier pyramidal classification of human psychological needs. Wikipedia (PDF)



Map of the Arctic (Source, Larousse)

building icebreakers and Arctic warships, as well as naval bases. Not surprising then that countries work on strategies to protect their territories in case of aggression in the Far North.

Canada is building medium and heavy icebreakers, as well as warships designed to operate in the Arctic. Surprisingly, the USA, so far, has few ships suitable for the Far North and very few Arctic icebreakers.

Does this mean that fluid frontiers invite to war? Possibly. I would even say probably! But I sincerely hope not. Why is it so important to remember all that? Why are we studying this?

One simple answer is that we need to be conscious of the repercussions of past events as well as present ones and their effect on those who are most endangered by them. We could go on for hours discussing all this, but in the end, who are those most affected by climate change, by wars, by the race for natural resources, by declaration of sovereignty, if not the inhabitants of the Arctic territories?

In the middle of the 1950s, in order to affirm its sovereignty in the Arctic, Canada decided to displace some Quebec Inuit families to Ellesmere Island, a place supposedly suitable for them. These families greatly suffered by being transplanted on land where it is very difficult to eke out a living as well as being far away from their own people.

We can see how far countries are willing to go to protect the lands they own. At last ... when will we stop talking and start acting? All of us, wherever we are now, together as historians, sociologists, museologists, and everyone else, what can we actually do?

Considering the conclusion of Markus Rex, chief scientist of the Polarstern Expedition<sup>16</sup> who said: "The disappearance of the Arctic summer sea ice is one of the first landmines in a minefield, one of the first tipping points first triggered when warming is pushed too far."



Monument to Captain Joseph-Elzéar Bernier inaugurated in 2016 at the Paquet wharf in Lévis. Bernier has his sights set on the North Pole. (Sculptor: Michel Binette, photo: André Kirouac)

“One day, chance put in my hands the lead matrix that Captain J.E. Bernier used to print cards of the Article that he was handing out to promote his expeditions to the North. The map shows, among other things, the neighboring countries and the route projected by Bernier. On his monument, it is this map that he has in his hand.”

(Photo: André Kirouac, now in the collection of the archives of the city of Lévis.





Model of a kayak brought back from the Arctic by Captain Joseph-Elzéar Bernier. (Collection of Musée maritime du Québec)

"In fact, we can ask ourselves if we have not already stepped on this mine and triggered the start of the explosion." I am talking about potential wars, but who can say what our common future will be? What will it be like in 100 years? Who can predict if human migrations will move toward the poles, the last lands not too warm yet? So, as a group, can we call for action?

I do not need to convince you of this, but the question is: How can we convince every citizen on this planet; first the citizens, not the politicians? It is not about potential wars, but about the survival of humanity. We need to remember this. It is a good reason to visit museums

explaining and depicting these events, like the *Bernier Museum* in my hometown of L'Islet-sur-Mer in Quebec.

This has been quite a journey. Hasn't it? Connecting the Kirouacs, Le Bourdais, Berniers, and other related families, to major contemporary issues, I tried to paint a picture linking our family heritage to the global context.

It is always fascinating to connect individual path often unknown for most but that are in fact key players in world history. Today this story simply started with the Le Bourdais-Couillard marriage in 1807 followed then through their descendants intertwined ("closely knitted" as we say in Quebec) with our family over the past 200 years.

Let's repeat that without the genealogical research conducted over forty years by François Kirouac, this text would be missing all that brings us closer together and ties us to present world history!

<sup>16</sup> Markus Rex: Frozen at the North Pole - Expedition to the epicentre of climate change - TU Braunschweig || Blogs.  
Find this in English at: <https://magazin.tu-braunschweig.de/en/m-post/frozen-at-the-north-pole-expedition-to-the-epicentre-of-climate-change/>

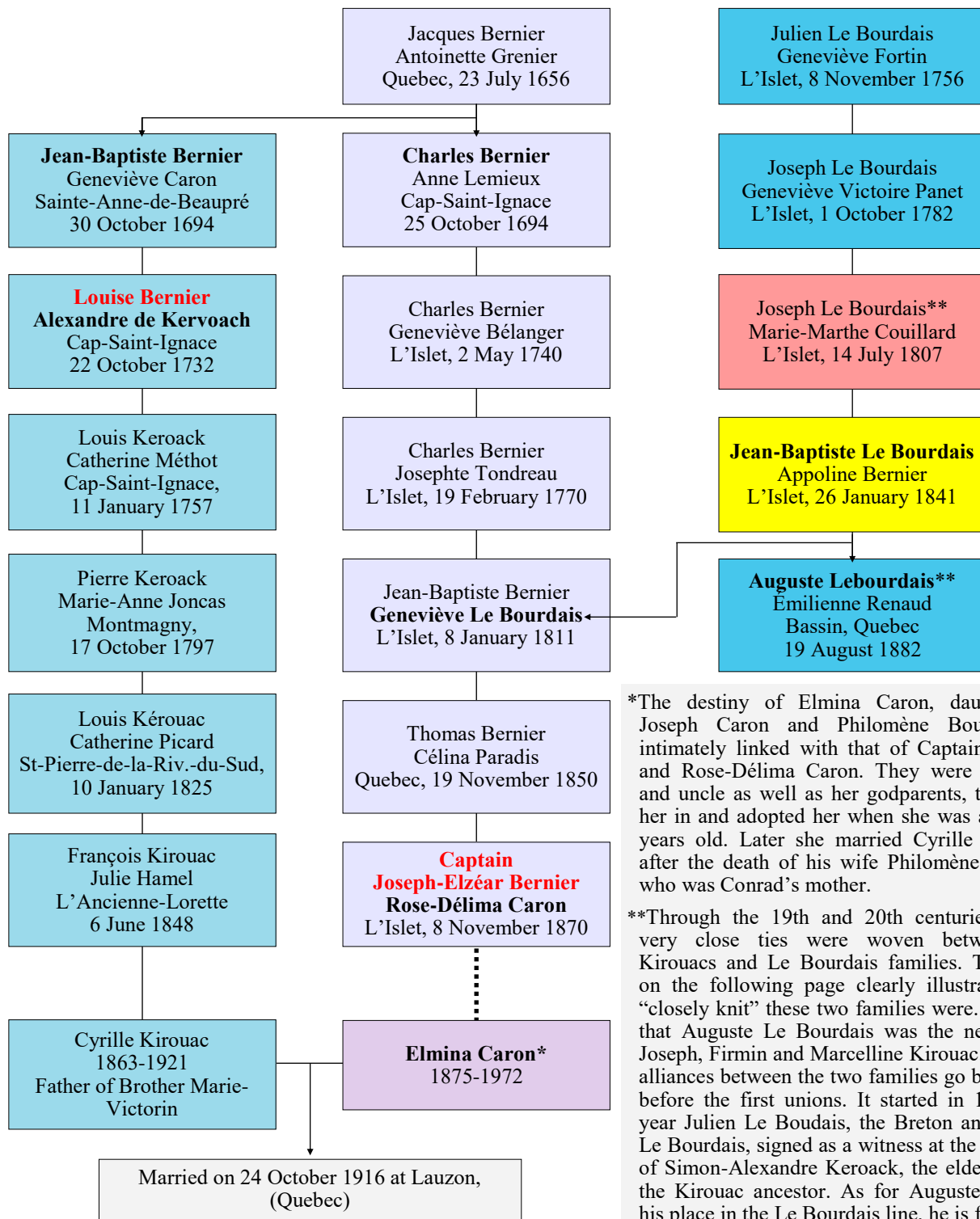


André Kirouac impersonating Captain Joseph-Elzéar Bernier in 1982 at the Mystic Seaport Museum, Mystic, Connecticut. (Photo André Kirouac)



The J.E. Bernier Maritime Museum in L'Islet-sur-Mer. (Photo: Maritime Museum of Quebec - Captain J. E. Bernier)

## Genealogical study of the links between the Kirouac, Le Bourdais and Bernier Families



\*The destiny of Elmina Caron, daughter of Joseph Caron and Philomène Boucher, is intimately linked with that of Captain Bernier and Rose-Délina Caron. They were her aunt and uncle as well as her godparents, they took her in and adopted her when she was about six years old. Later she married Cyrille Kirouac, after the death of his wife Philomène Luneau, who was Conrad's mother.

\*\*Through the 19th and 20th centuries, many very close ties were woven between the Kirouacs and Le Bourdais families. The chart on the following page clearly illustrates how "closely knit" these two families were. It shows that Auguste Le Bourdais was the nephew of Joseph, Firmin and Marcelline Kirouac. And the alliances between the two families go back even before the first unions. It started in 1759, the year Julien Le Boudais, the Breton ancestor of Le Bourdais, signed as a witness at the marriage of Simon-Alexandre Keroack, the eldest son of the Kirouac ancestor. As for Auguste, besides his place in the Le Bourdais line, he is forever in the memories because of the dramatic shipwreck of the Wasp in 1871, a story you can read in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 107.

François Kirouac, 18 January 2026

# *Genealogical Notices for Persons Mentioned in André's Article The Sea, The Arctic, A World Gone Crazy and The Kirouacs*

## **Introduction**

Writing an article whose main actors are mainly from the Kirouac family is simply not possible without an accurate and detailed database. In this regard, the research work undertaken by François Kirouac over the past 45 years is astonishingly rich. Once all of this information is available online at the end of 2026, imagine the exceptional historical tool that will be at your fingertips. To give you an overview, here are some of the people mentioned in the article about the Kirouacs and the Arctic.

**Editor's Note:** The spelling of the name at birth is identical to that appearing in the baptismal certificate, which explains, among other things, the absence of hyphens. The number immediately after the name in bold type corresponds to the person's identifier in the database, while the reference number (ref #) refers to the first version of the genealogy published in 1991. Words written in quotation marks in the notes are reproduced as they appear in the original act.

André Kirouac

## **Excerpts from the Association's genealogical database**

### **Ernest Caron #44725**

Birth name: Ernest Émile Caron

Birth: 21-Jan-1880 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

Baptism: 21-Jan-1880 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

Death: 29-Oct-1972 at Lévis (Quebec)

Burial: at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish Cemetery)

Occupation: Ship Captain

**Father: Pierre Caron #18883**

**Mother: Joséphine Le Bourdais #15528**

*His godparents were Émile Lebourdais (Le Bourdais, as signed by the godfather) and Azéline Jean. Ernest and Marie-Anna were blood related at the third-degree. In 1903, Ernest is part of the 61st Active militia Infantry Regiment. Captain Caron and his wife, Marie-Anna Fortin, took in the orphaned Émilie Kirouac (daughter of Philippe Kirouac and Alma Boucher), who always considered the Captain and his wife as her parents.*

### **Émilie Kirouac #5318**

Birth name: Marie Émilie Kuérrouac

Also known as: Mimi Kirouac

Birth: 19-Feb-1921 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

Baptism: 20-Feb-1921 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

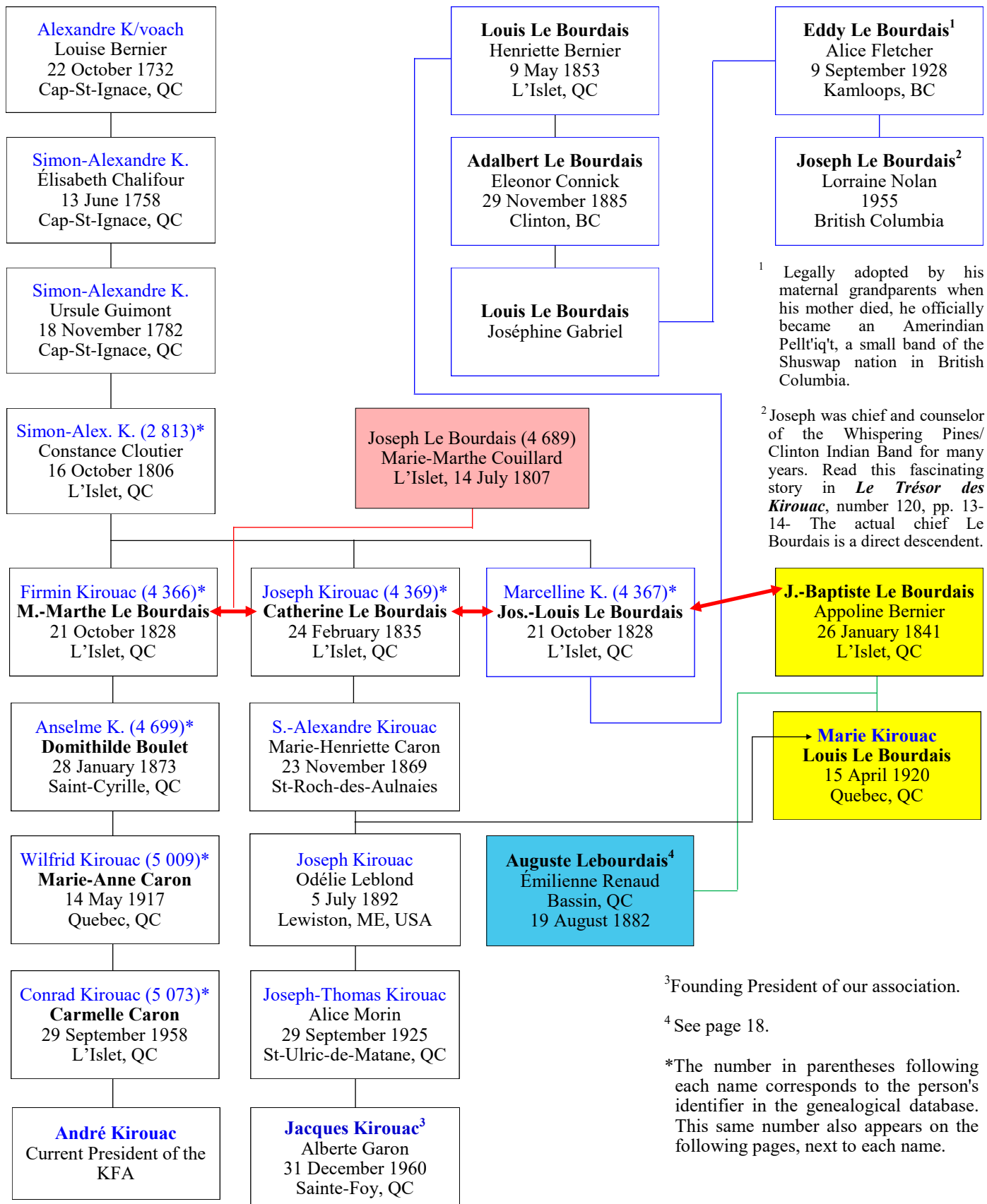
Death: 28-Sep-1999 at Saint-Jean-Port-Joli (Quebec)

Burial: 02-Oct-1999 at L'Islet (Québec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

Ref. #: 02316

*Her godparents were Lorenzo Boucher (Laurent Boucher, as signed by the godfather) and his wife, Albertine Fortin. Émilie was buried at L'Islet (Quebec) in Captain Ernest Caron's plot, he was the commander of the **Fleurus** from 1926 to 1942.*

## Marriages Between the Kirouacs and the Le Bourdais



<sup>1</sup> Legally adopted by his maternal grandparents when his mother died, he officially became an Amerindian Pell'tiq't, a small band of the Shuswap nation in British Columbia.

<sup>2</sup> Joseph was chief and counselor of the Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band for many years. Read this fascinating story in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 120, pp. 13-14- The actual chief Le Bourdais is a direct descendent.

<sup>3</sup> Founding President of our association.

<sup>4</sup> See page 18.

\*The number in parentheses following each name corresponds to the person's identifier in the genealogical database. This same number also appears on the following pages, next to each name.

**Firmin Kirouack #4366**

Birth Name: Joseph Firmin Kuerouac

Birth: 18-Sep-1807 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

Baptism: 19-Sep-1807 at L'Islet (Quebec) (paroisse Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

Death: 05-Apr-1873 at Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard (Quebec)

Burial: 07-Apr-1873 at Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard (Quebec)

Occupation: Farmer

Ref. # : 02086

**Father: Simon-Alexandre Kuerouac #2813****Mother: Constance Cloutier #4364**

*His godfather was Joseph "Chrisostôme" Cloutier, maternal grandfather of the child, and his godmother, Marie-Josette Morin. At the time of the Canadian censuses of 1861 and 1871, Firmin was living with his family in Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard (Que.). Firmin was churchwarden of the parish of Saint-Cyrille from 1854 to 1857. (Source: **From the Past to the Present, Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard 1844-1994, 150 years of memories**, Les Éditions du Savoir enr., 1993, page 66.)*

Wife: **Marie-Marthe Le Bourdais #4688**

Birth Name: Marie Marthe Le Bourdais

Marriage Contract: 08-Oct-1828

Marriage: 21-Oct-1828 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

Birth: 07-Oct-1809 at L'Islet (Quebec) (paroisse Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

Baptism: 08-Oct-1809 at L'Islet (Quebec) (paroisse Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

Death: AFT. 1873

Burial:

Ref. #: 4688

**Father: Joseph Le Bourdais #4689****Mother: Marie-Marthe Couillard #4690**

*Her godfather was "Sieur Abraham Couillard" (Esquire); her mother was Marie-Geneviève Le Bourdais. The first Le Bourdais in New-France, possibly arrived in 1746 and would be from Dinan in Brittany. (Source: **Forgotten Stories - from Guy to Gaudiose to Auguste to ...**, by Guy Le Bourdais.) One Jullien Le Bourdais, would be the first one who arrived in New-France. He was the son of Julien Le Bourdais and Mathurine Louvel. He was one of the witnesses at the marriage of Firmin Kirouack's ancestor, that is Simon-Alexandre (eldest son of the Breton ancestor), on 15 June 1758 at L'Islet (Quebec).*

**Anselme Kirouac #4699**

Birth Name: Anselme Kuerouac

Birth: 28-Apr-1849 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

Baptism: 29-Apr-1849 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

Death: 13-Nov-1921 at Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard (Quebec)

Burial: 17-Nov-1921 at Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard (Quebec)

Occupation: Labourer, farmer, miller

Ref. #: 02206

**Father: Firmin Kirouack #4366****Mother: Marie-Marthe Le Bourdais #4688**

*His godparents were Charles Caron and Anastasie Caron. During the 1881, 1891 and 1901 Canadian Census, the family lives at Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard (Quebec). Anselme went to France in 1896 wanting to find traces of the Kirouac family Ancestor. Before going, he had written to the French Republic District attorney at Saint-Brieuc (Brittany) asking for information about a possible inheritance from Maurice-Louis Le Brice de Kérouac. Of course, this search for an inheritance was due to a legend regarding a Kirouac treasure being passed on from father to son*

for generations. (Source: *L'Album*, 1980; by Raymonde Kérouac-Harvey on stories of the descendants of Maurice-Louis-Alexandre le Brice de Kéroack since 1730. In French only and out of print). In 1906, Anselme was, for a while, president of the School Board at Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard. (Source: *Du passé au présent, Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard 1844-1994, 150 ans de souvenirs*, (in French only, From past to present, 1844-1994, 150 years of memories at St-Cyrille-de-Lessard. Les Éditions du Savoir enr., 1993, page 173). On his funeral monument, the family name is written "Kirouac". At his marriage, in the church register, one reads: de Kuerouack.

**Wilfrid Kirouac #5009**

Birth Name: Joseph Wilfrid Keurouac

Birth: 14-Dec-1876 at Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard (Quebec)

Baptism: 14-Dec-1876 at Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard (Quebec)

Death: 11-Jul-1952 at Quebec (Quebec) (Hôtel-Dieu Hospital)

Burial: 1952 at Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard (Quebec)

Occupation: General Merchant

Ref. #: 02226

**Father: Anselme Kirouac #4699**

**Mother: Domithilde Boulet #5008**

*His godfather was "Ferdina" (Ferdinand) Bélanger and his godmother was the baby's aunt, Marie-Catherine Boulet. Wilfrid and his first wife, Joséphine Guimont, were cousins at the fourth degree. Wilfrid began working as a store clerk for Irénée Lord, general merchant. On 23 February 1892, Onésiphore Carbonneau, opens a store at Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard (Quebec), and Wilfrid will work for him until he buys the store on 21 April 1899 from Arthur Roy. (Source: *Du passé au présent, Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard 1844-1994, 150 ans de souvenirs*, **Les Éditions du Savoir**, 1993, page 183).*

*This store will become the Magasin Kirouac at Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard. Wilfrid's son, Armand, will later run the store until he died in 1968. Then, Armand's wife carried on and Armand's children ran the store after their mother's death in 1992. Eventually, the business would be sold sometime after 2000.*

*Wilfrid was always much involved in the village's life. He was secretary-treasurer by interim in 1891, councillor (1913-1915 and 1916-1917), mayor (1915-1916) and secretary of the School Board (1903-1906 and 1908-1910). He was involved in various parish groups and associations. (Source: **Le Trésor des Kirouac**, March 2000, number 59, pages 33-36; *Du passé au présent, Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard 1844-1994, 150 ans de souvenirs*, Les Éditions du Savoir, 1993, pages 97, 101 & 174). On 19 June 1936, the Ligue du Sacré-Coeur (Sacred Heart League), a men's group, is created in Saint-Cyrille's parish and Wilfrid is its first director. (Source: *Du passé au présent, Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard 1844-1994, 150 ans de souvenirs*, Les Éditions du Savoir, 1993, page 77) He was born in 1876 but on his funeral monument it was mistakenly written 1877.*

**Conrad Kirouac #5073**

Birth Name: Joseph-Laurent-Conrad Kirouac

Birth: 21-May-1920 at Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard (Quebec)

Baptism: 22-May-1920 at Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard (Quebec)

Death: 12-Jun-1962 at Quebec (Quebec)

Burial: 1962 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish Cemetery)

Occupation: Lumber merchant

Ref. #: 02250

**Father: Wilfrid Kirouac #5009**

**Mother: Marie-Anna Caron #5068**

His godparents were Joseph Guimont and Isola Allaire.

**Marcelline Kuerouac #4367**

Birth Name: Marie-Marcelline Kuerouac

Birth: 04-Apr-1811 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

Baptism: 04-Apr-1811 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

Death: 09-Apr-1885 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

Burial: 13-Apr-1885 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish Cemetery)

Ref. #: 02274

**Father: Simon-Alexandre Kuerouac #2813**

**Mother: Constance Cloutier #4364**

*Her godparents were Emmanuel Kuerouac and Marie-Geneviève "Norman". In the 1861, 1871 and 1881 Canadian Census, Marcelline is living with her family at L'Islet, Quebec. Joseph-Louis Le Bourdais's father was also living with the family in 1871.*

**AND**

**Joseph-Louis Le Bourdais #5192**

Birth Name: Joseph Louis LeBourdais

Marriage: 21-Oct-1828 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

Birth: 13-Aug-1808 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

Baptism: 14-Aug-1808 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

Death: 03-Jul-1886 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

Burial: 06-Jul-1886 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish Cemetery)

Occupation: Farmer

Ref. #: 02274

**Father: Joseph Le Bourdais #4689**

**Mother: Marie-Marthe Couillard #4690**

*His godparents were Joseph le Bourdais, Esquire, and Marie-Claire Bernier. According to the author, Guy Le Bourdais, no male descendants of this couple settled permanently in Quebec. One Jullien Le Bourdais, originally from Dinan in Brittany, would be the first one who arrived in New-France. He was the son of Julien Le Bourdais and Mathurine Louvel. He was one of the witnesses at the marriage of Firmin Kirouack's ancestor, that is Simon-Alexandre (eldest son of the Kirouac Breton ancestor), on 15 June 1758 at L'Islet (Quebec).*

**Joseph Kuerouac #4369**

Birth Name: Joseph Kuerouac

Birth: 13-Nov-1815 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

Baptism: 13-Nov-1815 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

Death: 05-Oct-1881 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

Burial: 08-Oct-1881 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish Cemetery)

Occupation: Farmer

Réf. #: 02275

Wife: Catherine Le Bourdais #5193 n. 30-Oct-1813 d. 15-Jan-1901

Marriage Contract: 21-Feb-1835

Marriage: 24-Feb-1835 at L'Islet (Quebec) (Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Parish)

# "After the shipwreck... recovery, reuse and recycling of wrecks."

André Kirouac

## *Water as a Legacy: From Bark Canoes to Warwrecks*

There is a considerable gap between birch bark canoes vital to the fur trade on the Saint-Lawrence River at the time of our ancestor, Alexandre de Kervoach, and the Battle of the St. Lawrence<sup>1</sup> 1942-1945 when discarded metal wrecks littered the bottom of the River. Nevertheless, it is the same river that shaped the Kirouac's history. The vital watery link sometimes turns into a watery grave as in the story of the shipwreck of Louis Le Bourdais or the 1770 story of Louis Keroack bringing back the body of a young Amerindian boy discarded by the river on the shore at L'Islet. Our president, André Kirouac, spent his career decoding these maritime testimonies, whether glorious or heartbreaking. Given his solid expertise after two decades at the head of Quebec City's Naval Museum, in 2024, he was invited to take part in a large gathering of researchers held at the Musée national de la Marine (National Maritime Museum) in Paris, France. André gave a talk about the investigation following the sinking of the SS Frederika Lensen torpedoed by a German U-boat in 1942. The story is written up in war maritime archives as well as in ethnological study because of its repercussions on life on land, particularly at Grande-Vallée in the Gaspé peninsula. So, between archeology and ethnology, André invites us to discover how, even while a war is raging, the River keeps shaping the life of those living on land. On the Internet, there are many photos of the SS Frederika Lensen. Here is André's streamlined talk.

The Editor

In this issue of *Le Trésor* many pages are about maritime life, ships and sailors. Here is more on the same theme.

From 2 to 4 April 2024, I had the privilege to take part in the international seminar entitled: "After A Shipwreck ... Recuperating, Re-using and



The SS Frederika Lensen in July 1942 (Collection Musée naval de Québec)

See: [Épave du Frederika Lensen - Répertoire du patrimoine culturel du Québec](#)

**"Recycling the Wreckages"** held at the Musée national de la Marine (French Marine National Museum) in Paris-Trocadéro, where 66 researchers gathered to discuss this theme. The magazine *Archeonautica* published results of this seminar jointly organized by the museum and DRASSM, i.e., Department of Sub-marine and Sub-aquatic research (DRASSM, a Unique and Indispensable Institution | Underwater archaeology).

The compendium includes thirty-two contributions (mine included) by fifty-three authors who took the time to discuss such themes as re-using, recycling and recuperating from various perspective, archeological, historical, ethnologic, anthropologic, artistic, juridic; doing so in a diachronic manner from the Antiquity to contemporary time, without geographical limits. The first two parts of the book gather articles about re-using in the maritime and river context also including land and island. Contributions in the third part were mainly about the written sources; the fourth part questioned the contemporary practices concerning re-employing and the last part is about recuperating shipwrecks from the legal point of view.

My talk was entitled: *RECUPERATION AND OWNERSHIP OF A SHIP TORPEDOED IN QUEBEC*. Briefly: In Summer 1942, in the Saint-Lawrence River, the Canadian Armed Forces were hunted by the *U-Boats* in an uneven battle. The fight deeply affected the population along the River. Many objects and even a shipwreck keep their memories alive. Around the year 2000, research carried out by the Quebec Naval Museum finally revealed this war episode. Investigation and recuperation of artifacts by the museum researchers and time spent interrogating the knowledgeable local population produced a clear picture of what the inhabitants of the village of Grande-Vallée were able to recuperate from the shipwreck and also recycle. For example, all the houses in the village got a fresh coat of paint called *battleship grey* after many barrels of paint were discovered inside the torpedoed *SS Frederika Lensen*. Going beyond the simple study of a single wreck, the appropriation and recycling of the *SS Frederika Lensen* opens an unknown access of the impacts generated by a war. Recuperating, reusing and recycling, studied on a practical level, not only on a theoretical level, is at the heart of the research commitment of the Quebec Naval Museum when looking at a wreck recuperated by a Quebec rural population. The book (French only) is available on line at: Publication – *Archeonautica* n°23, « Après le naufrage... Récupération, réemploi et recyclage des épaves » Musée national de la Marine.

# REVISITING THE PAST

by André Kirouac

*As announced, a new column entitled: **Revisiting the past** will appear in the next **Trésor 151**, in the autumn. A new approach to studying the history and ramifications of our families.*

*We start with stories about our links with shipbuilding. Here is one from **Trésor 122**, following our KFA annual gathering held at Lévis, Quebec, in 2016. It does bring back happy memories.*

## NAPOLÉON-GEORGES KIROUAC and ANNIE DAVIE

**W**hat about the link between Napoléon-Georges Kirouac, wealthy merchant specialized in flour and grain, owner of a large warehouse at the corner of St-Pierre and St-André Streets in the Old Quebec, near Bassin Louise<sup>1</sup>. Knowing that Napoléon married three times, could it be possible that one of his three wives was a Davie? Yes, indeed.

In 1897, Napoléon-Georges married his second wife, Annie Davie, daughter of George T. Davie, who owned David Shipbuilding<sup>2</sup>, as important as ever today. When Annie married Napoléon Georges, she was the widow of Charles Arcadius Onésime Wenceslas Collet, a surgeon doctor from Laval University at Quebec whom she had married on 23 August 1892. Annie's marriage with Napoléon-George Kirouac lasted only four years as she died in 1901. So, Napoléon soon found a third wife.

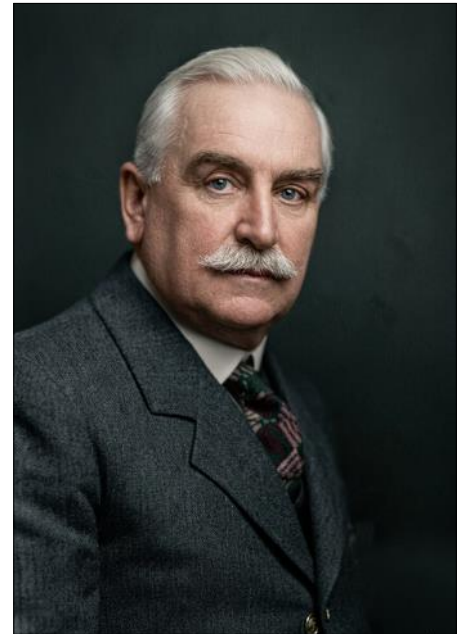
At the end of the nineteenth century, Quebec and Lévis' shorefronts looked like a forest of masts. That was the way people described the sight then. On Quebec side of the river was the golden age of the lumber shipping business with Europe. The lumber arrived at Quebec, floating down the Saint-Maurice and the Ottawa/Outaouais rivers, brought by lumberjacks living on rafts, often called cageux in French<sup>3</sup>. Sailing vessels were everywhere on both sides of the river, and, on the Quebec side, in Bassin Louise behind the warehouses belonging to Napoléon and Cyrille, his brother and associate. On the south shore (Lévis' side) were also the Liverpool Wharves, the actual St-Romuald and Anse Tibbitts. In every direction you looked, there were ships, sailing ships then so everywhere; it was a forest of masts.



Annie Davie  
1861-1901

Imagine, if you can, all the activity at Davie shipyard, owned by George T. Davie, father of Annie, who became Napoléon's second wife. Remember Joseph-Elzéar Bernier, at the time, he was one of the masters of the dry docks at Davie Shipyard. In fact, he was the master of the Lorne dry dock.

Bernier was also the most famous Passage Maker at the time, i.e., as a captain, he would sail a brand-new ship from Quebec City to Europe



Napoléon-Georges Kirouac  
1864-1938

crossing the Atlantic as fast as possible to demonstrate the vessel's capability. At the end of the nineteenth century, Bernier lived on Fraser street just above the cliff behind AC Davie shipyard. During the same period, we know that many Kirouacs were shaping society and business at all levels. As powerful testimony of that are the links between the Kirouacs and the Davies.



<sup>1</sup> Bassin Louise: [https://www.ville.quebec.qc.ca/en/citoyens/patrimoine/quartiers/vieux\\_quebec/interet/bassin\\_louise.aspx](https://www.ville.quebec.qc.ca/en/citoyens/patrimoine/quartiers/vieux_quebec/interet/bassin_louise.aspx)

<sup>2</sup> Parks Canada - Davie Shipyard National Historic Site of Canada: [https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page\\_nhs\\_eng.aspx?id=634](https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page_nhs_eng.aspx?id=634)

<sup>3</sup> Timber Rafting on Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timber\\_rafting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timber_rafting)

# Searching for stories illustrating our maritime history

As part of our research, we would like to identify other family who have members with links to the naval industry.

If one of your relatives works, or has worked, in a Canadian or American shipyard, we would love to hear about it.

We would greatly appreciate to have the name of that person.

Many thanks for your help. You can reach us at:

**associationfamilleskirouac@gmail.com.**



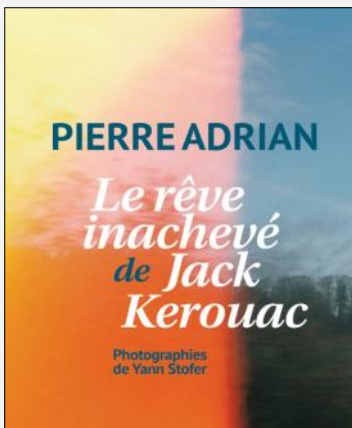
Captain Joseph-Elzéar Bernier standing next to the schooner La Vigie in drydock at the A.C. Davie Shipyard at Lévis, Quebec, circa 1900-1911. City of Lévis, Bernier private archives.

## LATEST KIROUAC NEWS

### NEW BOOK: *L'histoire de Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu en images* (History of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu in photos)

We are pleased to announce the recent publication of Stéphane Kirouac's book. He was our guest speaker during our 2024 KFA annual gathering at the Royal Canadian Military College in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. In his talk, he mentioned he was working on a book about the rich life of his area. His book is a wonderful collection entitled, "100 ans noir sur blanc"; i.e., 100 years in black & white, using old black and white photos from 1860 to 1960, from the iconographic archives of the Province of Quebec.

The work presents some 200 black & white never-before-published photos illustrating the human and urban changes in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu and surrounding towns of Saint-Luc, Iberville, Saint-Athanase and L'Acadie. The book is a historical bridge between generations, a memorial voyage where the elders' memories reach today's younger generations.

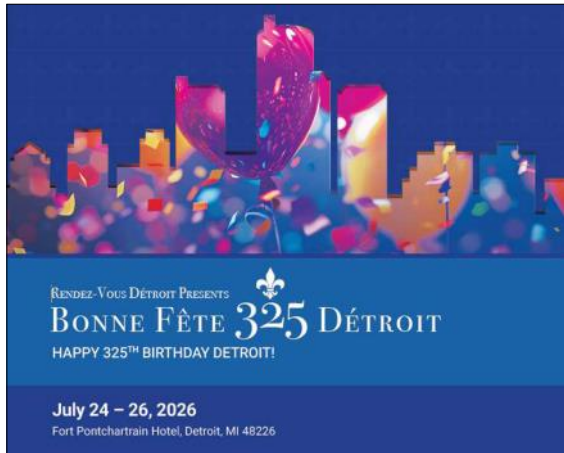


### New Book about Jack - *Le rêve inachevé de Jack*

The author, Pierre Adrian, follows on Jack's footsteps accompanied by photographer, Yann Stofer. He sums up his book:

In June 1965, Jack Kerouac spent one night in Brittany looking for his Breton roots. In Satori in Paris, 'Ti Jean' talks about his pursuit, that turned out to be an ethylic journey taking him from Gare Montparnasse in Paris, to Brest in Brittany, where he saw next to nothing of the town, except the Rue de Siam (street), the police station, a small hotel room and the nearby bars. Sixty years later, I do the same journey accompanied by my friend, photographer, Yann Stofer. Possibly unconsciously trying to patch up the skipped appointments. As one question haunted me: is there anything left of the solitary traveller's spirit? For those interested, there is an English edition, a French one as well as an eBook edition.

# 325<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Founding of the City of Detroit, Michigan



*Rendez-Vous D etroit pr sente*

**HAPPY 325th ANNIVERSARY  
24-26 JULY 2026  
Fort Pontchartrain,  
D ETROIT, Michigan 48226**

Calling all descendants of Detroit's early French settlers! Francophones, Francophiles, lovers of Detroit history and those who simply want to enjoy a great dose of joie de vivre, you're invited! Rendez-vous D etroit is throwing a party! It is a weekend of festivities to celebrate Detroit's 325th birthday.

We will be saluting the efforts of Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac and his brave convoy of French and Indigenous trailblazers who, together, put Detroit on the map. Our party encompasses a variety of components, all recognizing and celebrating the French history and heritage of Detroit while appreciating how our legacy will continue to influence the future.

**Please join us and be a part of this very historic event.**

It is fascinating to learn that the descendants of Simon-Alexandre Keroack and  lisabeth Chalifour share family links with Detroit's founder, Antoine Laumet, known as Antoine Lamothe-Cadillac\*. Family links well anchored in New-France's history through one couple: Jean Guyon and Mathurine Robin, who are the ancestors of many French-Canadian families.

**1-Jean Guyon  
and Mathurine Robin**  
married in Mortagne (Perche) on 2 June 1615

**2-Jean Guyon  
and  lisabeth Couillard**  
married in Qu bec on 26 November 1645

**3-Fran ois-Xavier Guyon  
and Marie Clotus**  
married in Ch teau-Richer on 14 July 1683

**4-Marie Guyon  
and Nicolas Gamache**  
married in L'Islet on 20 January 1705

**5-  lisabeth Gamache  
and Fran ois Chalifour**  
married in L'Islet on 18 November 1737

**6-  lisabeth Chalifour  
and Simon-Alexandre Keroack**  
married in L'Islet on 15 June 1758

**1-Jean Guyon  
and Mathurine Robin**  
married in Mortagne (Perche) on 2 June 1615

**2-Denys Guyon  
and  lisabeth Boucher**  
married in Quebec on 21 October 1659

**3-Marie-Th r se Guyon  
& Antoine Laumet, dit Antoine de Lamothe-Cadillac**  
married in Qu bec on 25 June 1687

Research: Andr  Kirouac, March 2026

You will find all the activities as well as the registration procedures via this link:

<https://www.rendezvousdetroit.org/event-details/rendez-vous-detroit-presents-bonne-fete-325-detroit>

\* Beyond the genealogical connection between Simon-Alexandre's wife and Detroit's founder through their ancestors, Jean Guyon and Mathurine Robin, other links between these families also reveal they were similarly related with illustrious personages. The godfather of Louis, Simon-Alexandre's brother, was Jacques Gourdeau dit

Beaulieu, a fur trader belonging to the same social strata as their father, Alexandre de Kervoach. Through this alliance, the family was connected to Louis Jolliet, the Mississippi explorer, as Jacques Gourdeau was Jolliet's nephew.



# IN MEMORIAM



## **CYR, NICOLE (1956-2025)**

From Mont-Tremblant, Quebec, Nicole Cyr, **wife of Michel Kirouac, son of Roger Kirouac (GFK 02175) and Rita Michaud**, at 69, died on 16 August 2025. Besides her husband, she leaves to mourn her son, Dany (Nancy), her grandson Gabriel, a great-granddaughter, her mother, Mrs. Marie-Paule Beauséjour, her brothers, André, Alain and Marion. Funeral was on 30 August 2025 at Ste-Thérèse-d'Avila church in Ste-Thérèse followed by interment in the parish cemetery.

## **DESCHENES, LISE (1969-2025)**

Lise Deschenes 56, died on 6 December 2025. She was born on 13 May 1969, daughter of Antonio (Tony) Deschenes and Marguerite Keroack (**GFK 01245**); lived her life in St. Albert, Alberta, Lise was the youngest of a loving family of 5 children. She leaves to mourn her aunt Cecile; her cousin Louise; her significant other Jason; her son Max; her siblings, Carmen (Derry), Sue (Dave), Paul (Lily) and Joe (Lisa); and by ten nieces and nephews; seven grand nieces and nephews; and many other relatives. Funeral Mass was celebrated on 19 December 2025 at St. Albert Catholic Church in St. Albert, Alberta. Followed by interment at Holy Cross Cemetery & Mausoleum in Edmonton, Alberta.

## **DESCHENES, MARGUERITE (1934-2026)**

Marguerite Deschenes, 91, died on 28 January 2026. She was born on 10 October 1934, daughter of Albert Keroack (**GFK 01218**) and Emma Baril. She was predeceased by: her husband Antonio Deschênes and her daughter, Lise; her siblings, Therese, Jeanne, Albert, Aimé-Michel, Marie, Cecile, Annette, Joseph, Antonio, Simone, Paul, Richard and Bernard; she leaves to mourn her friend Bill; her children, Carmen (Derry), Sue (Dave), Paul (Lily) and Joe (Lisa); and her grandchildren, Jenesse, Katelyn, Phillip, Emma, Meghan,

Cameron, Nathan, Brianna and Max. She is also survived by seven great-grandchildren. Funeral Mass was on 17 April 2026, at St. Albert Catholic Church, followed by a graveside service at the St. Albert Parish Cemetery, in St. Albert, Alberta.

## **KIROUAC, CANDIDE (1941-2025)**

At the Centre Frederick-George-Heriot, on 17 August 2025, aged 83, died Mrs. Candide Kirouac (**GFK 02528**), daughter of the late Lucien Kirouac and the late Germaine Lacharité. A celebration of life took place at J.N. Donais Funeral Home in Drummondville, on 12 September 2025. She leaves to mourn her two sons: Francois Grenier and Éric Beaudry (Chantal Gagné); her grandchildren: Éricka, Eliane, Frédéric; her great-grandchildren: Charlie-Rose and Louis; her siblings: the late Marie-Laure (Marcel Tessier), the late Yvon (Gaétane Lacourcière), Jean-Pierre (Suzanne Bilodeau), Danielle (Denis Gamelin), Micheline (Alain Paquet) and Carmen.

## **KIROUAC, DARRELL (1933-2026)**

Darrell Howard Kirouac passed away on March 1st, 2026, at 92. He was the son of Gérard Kirouac (**GFK 01084**) and Kathleen Fearon. Beloved husband of the late Arlene Kirouac (nee Forrest) Cherished father of Dale (Theresa) Kirouac, the late Dianne (Steve) Gilbert and Sheryl Kirouac. Grandfather of Kaitlyn, Kelsey, Danica (Joshua) and Tamara, great-grandfather of Melissa and Selina. Brother of Donna Lynn Kowalchuck. As per his wishes, cremation has taken place and a private family interment will be held at a later date.

## **KIROUAC, JEAN-CLAUDE (1940-2025)**

Jean-Claude Kirouac (**GFK 01812**) 85, died on 26 August 2025, at La Malbaie Hospital. Born on 20 June 1940, he was the son of the late Fernand Kirouac and the late Germaine Lebel. He was preceded in death by his wife Marie-José Adam. He leaves to mourn his spouse Adrienne Hogue, his two daughters:

Isabelle (François LeBlanc) and Geneviève, his grandchildren Camille, Nicolas (Kathy Masson-Pelletier), Marianne, and Laura (Martin Portier); his great-grandchildren Jules and Abigaëlle, his sisters Francine and the late Marielle, his nieces Marie-Claude, Emmanuelle and Mylène, many friends and some very close ones. A celebration of his life took place on 14 September 2025 at the Lépine & Cloutier Funeral Home in Quebec City.

## **KIROUAC, LISE (1945-2025)**

On 15 December 2025, at 80, died Lise Kirouac (**GFK 01072**). She was the daughter of Roger Kirouac and Simone Houde. She leaves to mourn her daughter, Nathalie Kirouac (Pierre Abel), her grandchildren: Francis Dufour (Manon Bouchard) and Annick Abel (Éric Bouchard); her great-grandchildren: Félix and Alex; her sister, Ginette Kirouac (Serge Roberge) and many relatives and friends. No funeral.

## **KIROUAC, LUCILLE (1927-2025)**

Lucille "Lulu" Kirouac, daughter of Gertrude Bouchard and Aimé Kirouac (**GFK 01815**), died at 98 years and 3 months, on 22 September 2025, in palliative care at Saint-François d'Assise Hospital in Quebec City. She was preceded in death by her husband Roger Pelletier. A liturgy was held on 8 October 2025 in the chapel of Lépine Cloutier Funeral Home in Quebec City. She leaves to mourn her son Pierre, her daughter Josée (Daniel Bélanger), her sister Aline, her sister-in-law Rollande Daigle (the late Fernand Kirouac), and her brother-in-law Yvon Pelletier, and many other relatives and friends.

## **KIROUAC, LUCILLE (1947-2026)**

In Rivière-du-Loup, at 78, on 4 March 2026, died Lucille Kirouac, spouse of Raymond Lévesque. She was the daughter of Georges Kirouac (**GFK 01463**) and Alvina Dubé. A ceremony of life was held on 21 March 2026 at the Funeral Home Marc-André Rioux in Rivière-du-Loup. Besides her

spouse, the leaves to mourn her daughter Sonia Berthiaume (Steve Larouche); her grandchildren: Justine, Gaëlle and Ulrick; her stepchildren and their children; her siblings: Pierrette (Magella Fournier), Denise (Robert Potvin), Albert (Hélène Roussel), Diane (Denis St-Laurent) and Denis (Johanne Johnson).

#### **KIROUAC, ROSE-ANNE (1929-2025)**

At the long-term care Chauffailles, at Rivière-du-Loup, on 25 December 2025, at 96 years and six months, died Rose-Anne Kirouac (**GFK 01438**), daughter of Ludger Kirouac and Marie-Louise Castonguay. She was preceded in death by her husband, Roland Pelletier (1931-2022). A celebration of her life took place on 7 February 2026 at Marc-André Rioux Funeral Home at Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup. Her ashes will later be deposited in the parish cemetery. She leaves to mourn her children: Sylvain Kirouac (Michelle Plouffe, feu Carole Lessard), Marco Kirouac (Annette Joly) and Manon Kirouac (Louis-Hébert Dubé); her grandchildren: Carl (Myranie), Patrick (Sonia), Mathieu (Audrey) and Audrey-Anne (Étienne); her great-grandchildren: Léonie, the late Carol-Ann, Félix, Mayson, Hayden, Lokyan, Kyle and a new baby; her brother Benoit, as well as brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law and many other relatives and friends from the Kirouac and Pelletier families.

#### **KIROUAC, SUZIE (1963-2025)**

At the Desjardins palliative-care home at Rivière-du-Loup, on 12 December 2025, aged 62, died Miss Suzie Kirouac. She leaves to mourn her mother, Noëlla Ouellet, widow of Camille Kirouac (**GFK 01603**), her sister Denise, her brothers Claude and Jeannot, and many relatives and friends. She has now joined her siblings, the late Marcel (2020) and the late Line (2023). The family extends their gratitude to the nursing team at Maison Desjardins for their wonderful care).

#### **KIROUAC-BOUCHER, GISÈLE (1939-2025)**

GISÈLE Kirouac-Boucher from Saint-Agapit, Quebec, aged 86, died on 10 October 2025. She was the daughter

of Florentin Kirouac (**GFK 02727**) and Jeanne Pelletier. She was preceded in death by her husband, Réal Boucher. She leaves to mourn her siblings, Benoît, Marcel (Suzanne Morin), Rachel (Jacques Lapalme), Louiselle (the late Bernard Gauthier) and Carmen; her sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Marielle (the late Rosaire Bard), Yolande (the late Philippe Pelletier), Simone and Claude; her children, Paul (Louise Paradis), Mario (Francine Landry) and Linda (the late André Morin); her grandchildren: Patrick (Sarah Taglaris), Josiane (Dave Rousseau), Vincent (Gabrielle Mercier), Isabelle (Maxime D'Amours), Maxime, Jonathan (Kerri-Ann Poirier), Gabriel (Marie Levesque) and Marc-André (Marie-Hélène Hunter); one brother Jacques (Lorraine Therrien); a sister Marielle; a sister-in-law Suzette (Lionel Landry); and eleven great-grandchildren. Her funeral was on 25 October 2025 in Saint-Mathias Church at Cabano, Quebec.

#### **KIROUAC-LAFRANCE, THÉRÈSE (1931-2025)**

At Lebourgneuf Seniors' Home in Quebec City, at 94, on 10 December 2025, died Thérèse Kirouac (**GFK 01178**); she was preceded in death by her husband Paul-Henri Lafrance. She was the daughter of Clara Patry and Bruno Kirouac. She leaves to mourn her children: Roseline (Pierre Parent), the late Alain, Ronald (Julie Besson), Mario, Patrick, and Sandra; her grandchildren: Dave (Stéphanie McKinnon), Éric (Véronique Laterreur), Tommy (Sophie Jacques-Vézina), Nicholas (Mylene Clusiau), Érika (William Brown), and Philippe (Catherine Gauvin); her great-grandchildren: William, Maxime, Camille, Logan, and Raphaël, as well as numerous relatives and friends.

#### **McMILLAN, CAROL A. (1948-2025)**

Carol A. McMillan, 76, of Gibson City, formerly of Paxton, died on 19 August 2025, at Goldwater Care Home in Gibson City. Carol was born on 25 October 1948, in Kankakee, IL a daughter of Charles and Lela Curwick Walthers. She is survived by her children Denise (Danny) Zeigler and Eric (Lauren) McMillan; three grandchildren: Jasmine McMillan, Sean Coke, and John

Thomas McMillan; also survived by her three siblings: Terry (Donna) Walthers, Barbara White and Lisa (Russel) Gaddis, as well as many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, a niece Amanda J. Walthers, and her nephew Russell H. Gaddis II. Carol worked for various factories and retail stores in the Gibson City and Paxton area, including Electronics Corp. and Bell Helmet. She loved animals, especially dogs. Carol crocheted baby blankets for each new family member. Burial will be held at a later date. **Carol attended the Re-unification Kirouac gathering held at Kankakee/Bourbonnais, Illinois, in 2011.**

#### **MARCOTTE, LISE (1956-2025)**

At Saint-Eustache, Quebec, at 69, on 24 August 2025, Lise Marcotte died, wife of Pierre Kirouac (**GFK 02353**). Besides her husband, she leaves to mourn her mother Madeleine Déziel, her two daughters: Karyne and Roxanne, her brothers: Pierre (Claudette), and Jean (Suzanne), her sisters: Lucie (Greg) and Sylvie, and many relatives and friends. A celebration of her life was held on 11 October 2025 in the chapel of Goyer Funeral Home in St-Eustache. **Her two daughters, Karyne and Roxanne were KFA representatives for the Montreal, Outaouais, Abitibi regions from Autumn 2015 to Spring 2018.**

#### **MILES, MICHAEL JAMES (1945-2026)**

Father Deacon Michael James Miles, 80, died on 1 March 2026. Born on 28 June 1945, in Ontonagon, Michigan, He was ordained a deacon of the Orthodox Church on July 17, 2005. He is survived by his beloved wife, Vivian Miles\*, his children, Melissa and Ruston Miles and his cherished grandson, Grayson. Funeral was held on 5 March 2026 at the Holy Apostles Orthodox Church in Bixby, OK. **(\*Vivian born Kirouac (GFK 00899), was the daughter of Jacques Kirouac, musician, and Mathilde Poeschl.)**

#### **Our Deepest Condolences to The Bereaved Families**

## THE PASSING OF DENISE PÉPIN, WIFE OF THE LATE RENAUD KIROUAC

For over forty years, Denise (Pépin) and Renaud Kirouac (1937-2018) were the pillars of our annual gatherings. Their exceptional commitment was appreciated by one and all. They were part of the planning committees for the annual gatherings held in 1985, 1999 and 2012 held in the Mauricie, Bois-Francs and Eastern-Townships regions.

The KFA Board members and the team of Le Trésor wish to express their deep gratitude for Denise and Renaud's generous support and, in their name and in the name of all the KFA members, also want to convey their deepest sympathies to the grieving family.

The Editor

### PÉPIN, DENISE (1937-2026)

At Arthabaska Hôtel-Dieu Hospital, on 23 February 2026, aged 88, died Denise Pépin-Kirouac, widow of Renaud Kirouac (GFK 00805), from Warwick. She was the daughter of Philippe Pépin and Marie-Rose Roy. She leaves to mourn her children: Renée, Guy-Renaud (Marie-Chantal Lafrenière), Jean-François and Yves; her grandchildren: Stéphanie, Antoine, Mathilde, Simon, Philippe, Lydia-Rose, Anabelle, Eliza-Jane, Audrey and their spouses; her great-grandchildren: Sarah-Jeanne, Alexis, Sonny, Oaklan, Jack Renaud and Louis Yves. She was preceded in death by her siblings and their spouses from the Pépin family. She also leaves to mourn her brother and sisters: Thérèse (the late André Laroche), Claude (Lise Carrier) and Lise (the late André Rioux) as well as her brother-in-law David Dahan (the late Gaétane Pépin); many other relatives and

friends. A ceremony in her memory took place on 7 March 2026 at Grégoire & Desrochers Funeral Home in Warwick. Her ashes were interred in the parish cemetery.



Photo: Marie Kirouac

The organizing committee of the KFA annual gathering held in Warwick in 1985. From left to right: Renaud Kirouac (1937-2018) Hélène Kirouac, Monique Pelletier-Kirouac (1917-2008), Denise Pépin (1937-2025), Gisèle Bergeron-Kirouac and Bruno Kirouac (1926-2019).



The organizing committee of the KFA annual gathering held in Warwick in 1999. From left to right, in front: Renaud Kirouac (1937-2018), Denise Pépin (1937-2025), Hélène Kirouac (1925-2013), Céline Kirouac (1952-2007), Raymonde Kirouac (1939-2023); behind, in the same order: a former KFA president, Pierre Kirouac (1941-2018), Marguerite Kirouac (1921-2021), Hélène Kirouac, Gisèle Bergeron-Kirouac and Bruno Kirouac (1926-2019). (Photo: KFA collection)



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**Become ambassadors of the history  
of the Kirouacs!**

We are asking everyone, dear readers: please invite your cousins and relations, to join our Association to secure the longevity of our heritage. By becoming a member you contribute to the research and sharing our family archives. Like the photo of Joseph-Arthur Kirouac, personifying a gentleman from Governor Frontenac's time during the tri-centennial celebrations of Quebec City in 1908.

Together we can increase exchanges and discoveries to better honour the memory of our ancestors and celebrate everyone's contributions towards our living heritage.

