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Number 146

Le Trésor des Kirouac

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



7 September 2024, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. After nineteen years as president, François Kirouac is now handing over the destiny of the Kirouac Family Association to André Kirouac. André, of L'Islet, becomes the seventh President since the founding of our Association in 1978.
(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° 146

The President's Word	3
Our Young Treasures	4
Kirouac Gathering held at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, 7 and 8 September 2024	6
Homage to Marie Kirouac	10
Happy 90 th Anniversary to Céline Kirouac	13
Homage to Céline Kirouac	14
Homage to François Kirouac	15
Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu History	17
President's Annual Report	21
Gratitude to Renald Kéroack and Serge Kirouac leaving the KFA Board	23
Commemorative Plaque to Élisabeth Chalifour and Simon-Alexandre Keroack at L'Islet	23
Stéphane Kirouac, new KFA Board Member	24
Ancestry of Stéphane Kirouac	25
Nathalie Kéroack, new KFA Board Member	26
Ancestry of Nathalie Keroack	27
Financial Results of the KFA Gathering held on 7-8 September 2024	28
<i>Espace Jack Kerouac</i> , receives books gifted by Eric Waddell	28
The Kirouacs of Saint-Pierre-de-la- Rivière-du-Sud by Lucille Kirouac	29
Marie-Victorin, Conrad and me in Cuba by André Kirouac, Conrad's Son	35
Trip to Arkansas by Greg Kyrourac	43
In Memoriam	44
Genealogy & Readers' Page	46
New KFA Board for 2024-2025	47
Responsibility for Various Files	47
Regional Representatives	47

The President's Word

Greetings,

First of all, I want to thank everybody for putting your trust in me and in the Board members who have entrusted me with the responsibility of being the president of our association.

Of course, replacing someone like François is not really possible, I think we all agree on that, and I certainly think so.

But I can assure you that I will try as best as I can to follow the path he has traced with so much dedication and passion. To properly thank him, let us say it simply: Thank you very much my friend.

How do I see this mandate you may ask? I will say, it is a **challenge**.

We cannot ignore the fact that so many associations like ours are facing steady decline in their membership. Every year, some close up shop. When comparing ourselves with other family associations we are truly lucky, given what I heard at the last AGM of the Quebec Federation of Family Associations, even they are considering packing up.

We are truly fortunate to be all linked by an original, unique and prestigious family name.

Few families can claim so many important historical Quebec, Canadian and world personalities. Thanks in great part to François' work, many families have discovered their complete genealogy. About our association's genealogical aspect, I want to name Mrs. Patricia Dagier whom I met last year. Urbain-François Le Bihan, sieur de Kevoach was, to say the least, a special character. But also a man of his time with his flaws and qualities.

As far as we know at this point in time, we are descendants of this unique man who landed in New-France in the mid-1720s. So get ready to celebrate the 300th anniversary of his arrival in a few years.

We are unique and we are proud of it. At the beginning of this mandate, I am sharing with you the same challenge I take on myself. Contact your parents, children and grandchildren. Invite them to join the KFA and talk to them about



André Kirouac

how much we can be proud of belonging to the same family as Jack, Conrad and so many others.

We must look to a brilliant future in homage to our name, our ancestors and, above all to our descendants.

To conclude, allow me to convey my best wishes for a marvellous holiday season that will allow you to enjoy gatherings with family and friends. May the New Year bring you what you hope for, constant joy and guaranteed pleasure.



New KFA Board elected on Saturday, 7 September 2024, at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. Front row, left to right: Mercédès Bolduc, Nathalie Kéroack, François Kirouac, André Kirouac, Céline Kirouac and Stéphane Kirouac. Behind: Marc Villeneuve. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

SEASONS GREETINGS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025

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!**



Arianne and Jean-Philippe



Kaiya



Elena



Helene



Mathis and Maéva



Émile

SEASONS GREETINGS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025

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!**



From left to right: Silas and Samuel; in the back in the same order: Selah and Serena.



Leon



Teddy and Elliana



Nahla



Ella and Henri



Nev and Eva



Émy

ANNUAL KIROUAC FAMILY ASSOCIATION GATHERING (AGM) SAINT-JEAN-SUR-RICHELIEU, ON 7-8 SEPTEMBER 2024

BY MERCÉDÈS BOLDUC

On 7-8 September 2024 we held our annual KFA gathering at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. Relatives and friends were greeted at the Royal Canadian Military College at Saint-Jean for our 36th KFA gathering. A nice cup of coffee was appreciated before the AGM. Our American cousins were represented by Stacy Trahoon from Kansas and Greg Kyroutac from Illinois.

The AGM went very smoothly and included a few surprises. First, we welcomed a new board member when Nathalie Kéroack, from Nova Scotia, originally from Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, accepted a two-year mandate, now that she and her husband travel to Quebec more often. We are delighted to welcome Nathalie on the Board.

Secondly, following the elections, the board named our new president, as François was quitting the position of president after nineteen years. From now on, André Kirouac is the KFA president. Congratulations André and much gratitude to François for all these years at the helm of the KFA.

After the AGM, we enjoyed a non-alcoholic cocktail, and it was a special moment to pay homage to a few well-deserving persons. First François paid homage to Marie Kirouac, who decided to leave the Board after 43 years of service. As a token of our appreciation, she was



Photo: Pierre Kirouac

François Kirouac presiding his nineteenth and last AGM with the KFA Board members. From left to right: André Kirouac, François Kirouac, Céline Kirouac, Stéphane Kirouac, Marc Villeneuve and Mercédès Bolduc.



Some of the participants at the AGM on 7 September 2024 at the Royal Military College at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

presented with a certificate of recognition, a life-time membership and a lovely bouquet.

Then Céline Kirouac, always a Board member, who just celebrated her 90th birthday, was congratulated and thanked by François. I had the honour to present her with a special bouquet.

Afterwards, it was Céline who paid homage to François, to thank him for his many years of service as president.

It was also the opportunity to thank his wife, Francine, who has devotedly supported him from the very beginning of the association. Francine lent us her husband and she also allowed a large part of their house to store all the KFA archives since the mid-1980s.

Afterwards we enjoyed a delicious meal served by the Royal Military College and the participants were able to chat together before listening to our guest speaker.

Stéphane Kirouac, who has been teaching electronics for the past 34 years in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, is also passionate about genealogy as well as the local and regional history. So, he knows his subject very well.

His talk about St-Jean and the area was fascinating and being an excellent teacher, he added a remarkable selection of slides to illustrate it. His informative talk was a wonderful introduction to our visit to the Fort Saint-Jean museum in the afternoon.

The Fort Saint-Jean Museum is a must to better understand the regional history from the beginning to today. The various museum guides were very competent, interesting and passionate about local history.

To anyone visiting St-Jean, I strongly recommend it. It is well worth the detour.



In the name of all KFA members Mercédès Bolduc presents a lovely bouquet to Marie Kirouac to thank her for 43 years of service. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)



Céline Kirouac presenting a well-deserved homage to François Kirouac and thanking him for his nineteenth years at the helm of the KFA. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

Unfortunately, towards the end of the afternoon it rained so it prevented us from visiting the large outdoor site. And, as we found our way to our various cars, I lost sight of the group and was unable to say goodbye to you all.

On Sunday morning, 8 September, the thermometer plunged for our visit to Fort Chambly, and it is located by the very windy Richelieu River. A few were ready with coats, hats and gloves, but quite a few found it very unusually cold.

Fort Chambly's history is directly linked with that of St-Jean and both are along the Richelieu River. It is a beautiful old fort we enjoyed visiting with young passionate guides all history buffs.

My husband, Marc, was temporarily enrolled in the Carignan-Salières regiment, wearing the old military uniform the soldiers wore when fighting the Iroquois. I think he looked really smart!

After the general presentation, we individually went our way to visit the fort. Again, that meant I was unable to say "au revoir" to each one of you.

Thus, I take the opportunity of the present short account to thank everyone who came and took part in these two days.

Looking forward very much to seeing you next year, possibly in the Quebec City area.

Mercédès Bolduc-Villeneuve



After all the homages paid to various KFA Board members and a delicious meal, our guest speaker, Stéphane Kirouac, gave his well-documented and illustrated talk about the history of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. (Photos: Pierre Kirouac)



Happy reunion: Céline Kirouac meeting one of her former students from Laval University, Renée Kirouac, daughter of Renaud and Denise (Pépin) Kirouac from Warwick. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)



Another happy reunion, François Kirouac with René Kirouac (from St-Constant) (left) and Gilles Kirouac (right). René and Gilles are the sons of Maurice and Monique (Pelletier) Kirouac from Warwick. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)



Stéphane Kirouac's wonderful talk on local history was followed by a tour of the Royal Military College. Here, Éric Ruel, curator of Fort Saint-Jean Museum, talking to a group of participants. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)



Photo: Pierre Kirouac

On Sunday, 8 September, during the visit at Fort Chambly, Marc Villeneuve was enrolled into the Regiment of Carignan-Salières to combat the Iroquois in New France. The uniform suits him well!



Photo: Pierre Kirouac

From left to right, front row: André Kirouac, Stacy Trahoon from Kansas, Mercédès Bolduc, François Kirouac, Marie-Thérèse Girard, Céline Kirouac, Chantal Girouard, Danielle Girouard, Marie-Andrée Lavigne, Marie Kirouac, Jacques Boulet & his wife Lucille Kirouac, Greg Kyrourac from Illinois, and our guide. Behind, left to right: Marc Villeneuve, Jean Kirouac, Laurent Kirouac, Chantal Côté, Francine Desrochers-Kirouac, Hélène Kirouac and Patrice Royer.

Turning a Page in our History Book **HOMAGE to MARIE KIROUAC !** by François Kirouac

In mid-May 2024, Marie Kirouac told me officially that on 23 March 2024, she had taken part in a KFA Board meeting for the last time. We will all miss her. Indeed, it is an enormous loss for our Association. Marie has been a Board member since 1982; for 42 years she shared her many talents for the benefit of the Kirouac Family Association.

However, her adventures with our Association started long before she became a Board member. She was part of the very first team formed in 1979 by Raymonde Kérouac-Harvey to work on what would become **L'Album**, the first book published in 1980. As a first key task, she took on getting in touch with all the Quebec City Kirouac families, as well as finding photos and stories to write a first history about Chevalier François Kirouac and his many descendants.

She also found the extraordinary photo of Pierre Keroack (1777-1866), a grandson of our Ancestor. No one, among all the descendants of Alexandre de Kervoach had kept that priceless historical photo. Just imagine, in 1980, the Quebec provincial archives asked Marie if they could buy that photo in exchange for printing all the KFA posters announcing the great and first official gathering of the Kirouacs to be held at L'Islet in August 1980.

To evaluate Marie's contribution to our Association, we must start with our family bulletin, the creation of what we now like to refer to as our 'family encyclopedia'. At the request of Jacques Kirouac, the KFA founding president, Marie created a first bulletin in 1983. Last spring when we celebrated the 45th anniversary of the **Trésor des Kirouac**, this is what I wrote about Marie's work when the KFA Board decided to publish a bulletin four times a year to keep in touch with its members: *From number 0* to number 65, Marie Kirouac did all the work manually. She had to cut and frame every photo individually for each issue; she needed to calculate how*

*much to increase or decrease each photo as well as individually glue each one on the proper page of the bulletin. Each text had to be sent to the typing service supplied by the Federation of Original Families at their headquarters at the Louis-Jacques-Casault Pavilion at Laval University in Sainte-Foy, (Quebec City). Afterwards, she had to pick them up; then she individually placed them and glued them on the proper page to complete the layout; tedious and time-consuming work that Marie did meticulously issue after issue from 1983 to 2001, during eighteen years! (*the first issue was no. 0, because we were so unsure about ever publishing a second one!)*

What Marie did for the KFA starting with **L'Album**, continuing with the bulletin is only part of it. Indeed, from the very beginning, Marie was regional representative for Québec-Beauce-Appalaches. As such, she presided the organizing committee for all the following gatherings: Quebec City in 1986 and 1994, Sainte-Justine-de-Langevin in 1998, again at Quebec City in 2008. With Céline Kirouac and helped by Mercédès and Marc Villeneuve, she organized the gathering at Lévis in 2016 and those at Quebec City in 2018 and 2022.

One achievement never to be forgotten: Marie always looked after the artistic projects to decorate each hall where the KFA met and that included her wonderful photo displays illustrating every past gathering and special occasions. She also kept up to date all the photo albums for nearly everyone of our gatherings.

She also took part in every **Salons du Patrimoine**, Heritage Weekend organized by the FAFQ in Quebec City in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. She



Marie Kirouac, KFA Board member from 1981 to 2024, pictured here with her spouse, Patrice Royer, at Saint-Jean-Richelieu on 7 September 2024, during the 41st annual KFA gathering. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

took part in the *Return to the Sources journey to Brittany* in July 2000; she also represented the KFA at many other events: Marie-Victorin's centennial in Montreal in 1985; she was part of the organizing committee for the centennial of Collège Jésus-Marie at Sillery in the autumn 1985 as well as Jacques Kirouac and Brother Beaudet. She took part and represented the KFA at Mont Saint-Hilaire (Montreal south-shore) for the Saint-Yves Feast Day in 1987. (*Saint Yves is the patron saint of Brittany.)

She planned the homage to Mother Cécile Kirouac, at Sillery in 1999. She represented the KFA at the inauguration of the Trappists' Tower at Sainte-Justine-de-Langevin in 2000; at the readings of Jack Kerouac's works organized by Quebec City's American consulate in 2006; at the launching of André Bouchard's book entitled *Marie-Victorin à (at) Cuba* at Montreal University in 2007; at Expo-Québec in 2009 where the KFA was representing the Montreal Botanical Garden. Marie was also one of three KFA members who was part of the Cuba trip entitled *In Marie-Victorin's footsteps*. She helped organize the KFA's participation at *Québec-Kerouac 2012* marking the 25th anniversary of the *International Symposium Jack Kérouac* in 1987 in Quebec City.

And, if this was not enough, for years, Marie took care of buying special gifts presented by the KFA to various people on special occasions, like during the *Return to the Sources in Brittany*. She had the knack for finding the ideal gift.



Photo taken on 26 October 1985 at Collège Jésus-Marie in Sillery at the celebration held to mark the centennial of Marie-Victorin's birth. From left to right: Mrs. Arthur Kirouac (born Rose Frégeau from L'Islet), Mrs. Émeric Kirouac (cousin of Marie-Victorin, daughter of Napoléon-Georges Kirouac, one of the sons of Chevalier François Kirouac), Marie Kirouac and Maurice Drolet, nephew of Marie-Victorin, son of Blanche Kirouac-Drolet.

So, you understand that I am keen to thank Marie very heartily, personally and in the name of the Board members and all the KFA members for the incredible amount of work she accomplished for the Kirouac Family Association. Personally, I have worked with Marie since 1979. She was one of the very first partners of our Association and she is the last one to retire after 45 years. No need to say that I will miss her input. She has been a perfect colleague.



Québec, 2 August 1986, Marie Kirouac at Laval University with Guy Kirouac and his wife, Pauline Maisonneuve-Kirouac, the parents of Anne-Renée Kirouac. (Photo: KFA collection)

**MUCH GRATITUDE
TO YOU, MARIE!**





Sainte-Foy, 24 February 2007, annual Federation of Quebec Families' Fair. From left to right: Jacques Kirouac, Lucille Kirouac, Mercédès Bolduc and Marie Kirouac. (Photo: KFA collection)

Expo-Québec, 19-30 August 2009, Cuba was the guest country that year. The Director of the Montreal Botanical Garden had asked the KFA to represent the Botanical Garden founded by Marie-Victorin, born Conrad Kirouac, highlighting his many botanical trips to Cuba. Marie Kirouac and Marie Lussier Timperley with a visitor interested in the Kirouacs, Marie-Victorin and Cuba at the KFA kiosk.

(Photo: Michel Bornais)



Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, 7 September 2024, our time together at our annual gathering was the perfect occasion to pay homage to Marie Kirouac and thank her for her many years devoted to the Kirouacs and our family association. From left to right: André Kirouac, new KFA president, Marie Kirouac and François Kirouac. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

Happy 90th Birthday Céline!

On 22 June 2024, on a perfectly sunny day, forty guests trickled in at Richard's home on Lake St-Joseph, welcomed by the rich aroma of a cookout that had already been roasting meat for over an hour! All the guests, except one, arrived around half past twelve, ahead of the heroine of the day!

SURPRISE! It is a birthday party for Céline celebrating 90 springs on the 30th of May. As she arrived in the beautifully decorated garden, the guests applauded and sang **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**.

It was a real surprise as she had no idea that it was all for her. Of course, she smelled the barbecue and saw the many cars parked which was normal as she had been told that her nephew Richard Kirouac, had invited the family to a "St-Jean-Baptiste" party. (24 June).

As she walked in, she noticed that, as well as her family, there were other guests. She recognized some of her close friends, who had been invited to celebrate her birthday. Lots of emotions for Céline! But all the guests had been warned to mark her anniversary as they used to, to make sure that she would never guess that something special was up. All were told that on 22 June it would be a celebration of love and homage. And it was a great success.

Céline is so alert, quick-witted, and has a phenomenal memory. She walks straight, without any hesitation, even with a quick step, you would never think she is 90. She is in great shape and looks after her health and her diet, of course, diet is Céline's specialty, her lifetime field of interest!

At 90, who can boast to look things up on the internet, do research,



Céline Kirouac with some friends celebrating her 90th anniversary.
(Photo: Monique Kirouac collection)

attach text and photos to her messages, correspond via Messenger and even add emoticons? All this is Céline!

She is interested in so many other things too. Let's mention her love of music, especially singing. Volunteering is no secret to her; she is always ready to help someone in need. She is also the secretary for the Kirouac Family Association deeply involved in the family genealogy . . . and I could go on and on ... she is very alert and has such a keen mind.

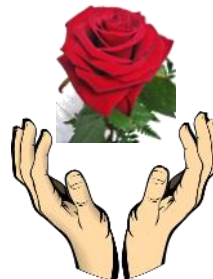
Dear aunt Céline is an admirable woman: brilliant, intelligent, generous, gentle, welcoming. Over the years, she has kept in touch with so many friends met when she was a student, at work, in the choirs or at gatherings of many volunteering activities. Her smile, her kindness and her cheerfulness attract us to her and keep us near her.

Dear aunt Céline, keep looking after your health. We love you so much, and

WE WANT TO KEEP YOU FOR MANY MORE YEARS!!!

Your loving niece!

Monique Kirouac



HOMAGE TO CÉLINE KIROUAC FOR HER 90th BIRTHDAY

HIGHLIGHTED AT THE ANNUAL KIROUAC FAMILY MEETING

IN SAINT-JEAN-SUR-RICHELIEU

7 SEPTEMBER 2024

On 30 May 2024, Céline celebrated her 90th birthday. She is a Board member of the Kirouac Family Association since 2001, that is 23 years. We owe much to Céline; let's start with her collaboration with Lucille Kirouac to produce the index of all subjects published in *Le Trésor des Kirouac* as well as writing some articles about a collection of letters and documents known as *Papiers de Philippe Kirouac: Philippe Kirouac's Papers*.

Céline's lifetime career was in nutrition. After studying four years at Université Laval in Quebec City, she spent a year as an intern in dietary at the Montreal General Hospital. Afterwards, back in Quebec City, she started her professional career at the Quebec Department of Health as a consultant to many regional hospitals in the province of Quebec.

Afterwards, she worked at the Saint-Sacrement Hospital in Quebec City where she implemented an internship in dietary, this programme was a first in Quebec. At the department of human nutrition at Université Laval she taught for twenty-two years, retiring in 1997.



Céline Kirouac and François Kirouac
7 September 2024 in Saint-Jean-sur Richelieu.
(Photo: Pierre Kirouac)



Mercédès Bolduc presenting a KFA memento to Céline.
(Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

From 1997 till 2018, for 21 years, Céline was a Board member of the *Résidences Les Jardins Saint-Sacrement in Quebec City (St. Sacrament Seniors Residences)*, a non-profit corporation. A musician at heart, Céline always loved singing. She was a member of Laval University's Senior's Choir and Quebec City's *Chœur symphonique* (Symphonic Choir) for ten years.

Well, Céline, to mark your 90th birthday, we would like to offer you a small token of our appreciation.

François Kirouac,
7 September 2024

90 years



Homage to François Kirouac

To The Great Kirouac Family

Dear François

Since our gathering at L'Islet a year ago, a St. Lawrence river wind blows in our direction. A changing of the guard has been announced at the Kirouac Family Association after nineteen years under your chairmanship. Today, we see the transfer of power to a new president. This is a moment to express gratitude for your unwavering loyalty holding very high the helm of the ship.

You have been the pillar supporting the enterprise and maintaining the stability even when the lack of seafarers made the task more complex. Since 1978, you have carried on the work always keeping in mind the founders' goals; especially the fourth one: **Develop and spread our family heritage through better knowledge of our ancestor's descendants and their achievements.**

Mission accomplished!

This success required not only ideas but also personal qualities including diplomacy, always present in your role as president. Consultation is also part of your management method and you know the right word to use when asking, appreciating and thanking. These talents and your know-how enabled

you to accomplish much. Our Association is very proud of your considerable legacy. But now I want to underline three great achievements:

In 1991, the first Kirouac genealogical dictionary was published (in French: *Généalogie des descendants de*), **Genealogy of the descendants of Maurice-Louis Le Brice de Keroack**. It was clear, concise and easy to access, starting with the ancestor it covered all the known names until 1991. You faithfully carried on your research gradually adding newly identified descendants, now reaching over 16,000 descendants.

Then in 2013, your second book was published *L'ancêtre des*



Great changes in our Association in 2024, so our gathering at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu was the perfect occasion to underline some of them, particularly Marie Kirouac leaving the KFA Board as well as the change at the top, François passing on the presidency to André Kirouac. From left to right: Francine Desrochers, François Kirouac's wife, Céline Kirouac celebrating her 90th birthday, Marie Kirouac and François Kirouac. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)

familles Kirouac en Amérique, son épouse et leurs fils, (The Kirouac Ancestor in North America, His Wife And Their Sons). This 200-page book took 35 years of genealogical research. God knows how many parish registers you read to collect all the extensive information starting with Alexandre de Ker/voach. For the Kirouacs, it is a bible, the most reliable reference about our ancestor as we know. Thank you very much, François, for producing such a rich essay.

As I wrote all this, my mind wandered towards Warwick... when he was born, his mother gave him the name, François. Could she imagined then, that one day, her son would write the story of a Breton born at Huelgoat, our ancestor named Urbain François Le Bihan? Was it coincidence? Or inspiration? Certainly, a mysterious destiny!

My third choice goes to ***Le Trésor des Kirouac***, our family history bulletin, delivered to our doors during the last nineteen years and for many years before that, but under other names. In each issue, in your President's Word, you reach every one of us, telling us about what is going on, and its whole content make it a vital link to our Association's current affairs.

Even during COVID-19, without our annual gathering, *Le Trésor* was produced and maintained the contact! In 2024, you created a memorable 145th issue of ***Le Trésor*** dedicated to Marie-Victorin, demonstrating the extraordinary scientific expansion that our illustrious cousin inspired among French-Canadians.

Besides this key legacy, I want to mention other major moments during your presidency. In 2005, as soon as he was elected, François immediately announced the English edition of ***Le Trésor*** for our English-speaking cousins, Canadians and Americans, and members of the international public. This English

edition is possible thanks to the translation done by Marie Lussier Timperley, Mark Pattison as proofreader, and the co-operation of Greg Kyrourac, our KFA Central USA representative, who transfers the English texts onto the French template and does extra-proofreading as the same time.

From 2006, to increase its visibility, the KFA was present at the ***Salon du patrimoine familial*** (Family Heritage and Genealogy Fair) at Place Laurier (important Quebec City shopping mall). Then we discovered that there was a real interest for our family name, particularly for Jack Kerouac and Brother Marie-Victorin. During those yearly three-day events, most visitors were indeed very surprised to discover that Marie-Victorin was a Kirouac, born Conrad.

To take part in such activities requires many volunteers. But I still see François carrying heavy boxes of books, flags, posters and a supply of promotional articles. On Sunday evening, we pack up everything, and, although there is help, it all goes into François' car as he stores everything at home and brings it back the following year or at other events. Many are a president's tasks.

In 2008, François was awarded the **Annual Volunteering Prize** by the *Fédération des familles-souches du Québec* (The Quebec Federation of Founding Families). This award highlighted the KFA's thirty years of persistent work since its foundation in 1978. As volunteer loyalty goes, three decades is a long time. But there is another proof of fidelity I wish to emphasize. Last March (2024) at our 201st Board meeting, François, revealed that this was the 200th Board meeting he was attending. It means that he only missed one in 46 years. Guess why, he had forgotten there was a Board meeting! Shouldn't this be in the Guinness World Record book.

François, after many years of wondering, questioning, and looking for an answer, you tackled the mountain of archives all stored in your basement for over four decades. Preserving and conserving the KFA's archives is essential but deciding what is essential and must be kept, as well as all the digitized documents and some materials, requires a rigorous logistic. Bravo François, it was a tour de force and you triumphed.

These achievements, and many others, demonstrate how much you have been fully and totally invested in our Association and, during all this time, we benefited from your great talents and your heartfelt generosity on a full-time basis. For all these years of dedicated service, we are profoundly grateful, and we wholeheartedly thank you.

Our deepest thanks also go to your wonderful and most generous wife, Francine, who has been by your side through thick and thin from the very beginning and through all these years of research for the genealogy then through your presidency. Through her constant and faithful support, she contributed to the life of our Association. As a small token of appreciation, we selected a tourist outing in the Old Quebec where you can enjoy a gastronomic dinner for two. We thought about Le Lapin Sauté restaurant but the choice is yours as there are six great addresses in the Groupe Resto-plaisirs.

Our Heartfelt Gratitude to You, François

Céline Kirouac, 7 September 2024



SAINT-JEAN-SUR-RICHELIEU

BY STÉPHANE KIROUAC

Our Guest Speaker

His family: his father, Renaud Kirouac, was born at Saint-Michel-du-Squatec, in Témiscouata County.

The ancestor of his mother, Nicole St-Charles, was Charles Plat dit (known as) St-Charles. He was a member of the Royal-Roussillon infantry regiment*, Valette company (military unit). He came to Fort Saint-Jean a number of times between 1756 and 1760. (*Facebook page curated by Stéphane Kirouac).

On Saturday, 7 September 2024, Stéphane Kirouac, from Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, presented some important facts and people who played a part in the history of the town where he has been living and teaching for the past 34 years. Like all great professors, his talks included lots of dates, facts and names, all beautifully illustrated by a slide show. Here is the essential from his talk entitled: **The Heart of History, by Fort Saint-Jean's Ramparts.** (The Editor)



Briefly, the history of the region is made up of numerous important events that shaped the destinies of the native people, the European settlers and the nations who fought for control along the 130 km river (80 miles). It changed names over time. The South River became known as the Iroquois River, later Richelieu, Saurel, Saint-Louis, Chambly, and finally retained Richelieu from one end to the other. The Richelieu flows through the very fertile Richelieu Valley, Upper- and Lower-Richelieu, also Vermont, linking Lake Champlain to the Saint-Lawrence River.

HISTORICAL DATES

Before 1534, it was Iroquois territory, hence the name of the main waterway: Iroquois River used for fishing, hunting and war.

In 1534, in his writing, Jacques Cartier only mentioned its name.

In 1603, with the Montagnais, Samuel de Champlain explored the Iroquois River, the first time all the way to Saint-Ours.

In 1609, Samuel de Champlain sailed up the river for a second time, spending one night where Saint-Jean would be built years later. He also sailed past Sainte-Thérèse Island.

In 1665, a first fort was built at Saint-Jean as a stage post. Other forts were built along the Richelieu at the time, including Fort Ste-Thérèse, whose location was identified only in 2003 thanks to historian Réal Fortin and his team of researchers going by a 1938 aerial photo.

In 1710, Governor Rigaud granted the first lands to Charles Le Moyne d'Iberville, second Lord of Longueuil. His land then included what is today the town of Saint-Jean.

In 1733, Clément de Sabrevois de Bleury, started a settlement at Mille Roches, which later became Iberville.

Between 1747 and 1755, Charles Le Moyne, de Longueuil started granting lands along the Iroquois River, where Fort Saint-Jean now is, on the Richelieu River.

When Louis-Joseph Franquet stopped at Fort Saint-Jean in 1752 he noted that there were about a dozen inhabitants.

In 1747, the Swedish explorer and botanist, Pehr Kalm (1716-1769), was sent to North America (See Wikipedia). He mentioned stopping at Fort Saint-Jean and called it "mosquito fort", because there were marshes in the area. Nevertheless, he also wrote "in my opinion this is the most beautiful part of North America I have ever seen."

In 1748, Jean-Eustache Lanouiller de Boiscler, responsible for road construction and maintenance, planned the first road between Saint-Jean and La Prairie: 26 km (16 miles). The first Fort St-Jean, abandoned in 1672, was rebuilt in 1748, with a garrison of 200 men.

In 1749, for security reasons, the immediate surroundings of Fort St-Jean were cleared making it possible to establish a village and to cultivate the land for the garrison.

* See: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/royalroussillon>

In 1756, Montcalm's ADC (aide-de-camp), Bougainville, mentioned that Fort Saint-Jean was one of the most important in the colony. Montcalm left a detachment of 25 royal carpenters at Saint-Jean to build the *Vigilant*, a 50-ton schooner able to carry ten cannons.

In 1760, during the night of 29 to 30 August, as the English were approaching, the soldiers were ordered to abandon Fort Saint-Jean, go to La Prairie and let the fort burn, preventing the English from capturing it. The French and English clashed there but it was the only time on the Upper-Richelieu territory before Montreal surrendered a few days later.

In 1764, officer Gabriel Christie, after fighting on the Plains of Abraham with James Wolfe, bought the seigniorship of Bleury with Moses Hazen. Christie and Hazen were also granted land near Fort Saint-Jean. An efficient manager, Christie granted many lots, thus encouraging the territory's settlement.

In 1775, the British built a third fort on the site of the previous one because the thirteen American colonies had become a real danger. Eventually the fort was transformed into redoubts, i.e., fortifications.

In 1775 and 1776, after two unsuccessful raids, Montgomery

besieged Fort Saint-Jean, a strong resistance lasting 45 days (from 18 September to 3 November) was enough to prevent the Americans from marching to Montreal and Quebec. The village surrounding the fort was called Dorchester at that time.

In 1791, being invaded by Loyalists from the States, Saint-Jean became anglicized.

In 1796, Issac Weld, an Irish traveller, reported that the fort's surroundings were quite dilapidated and noted the poor shape of the fortifications.

PORT OF SAINT-JEAN & NAVIGATION

In 1796, the Port of Saint-Jean was declared the only port of entry for all merchandise from the United States. American imports via the Richelieu river means it is possible to collect customs duties. Therefore, the first Canadian customs was at Fort Saint-Jean.

By 1797, a ferry service links Saint-Jean (Dorchester then) to Iberville (Christieville then) and will be used until the construction of the Jones bridge in 1826.

In 1809, the first steam ship **Vermont** arrived and would navigate up and down the Richelieu river all the way to Saint-Jean.

In 1815, the **Phoenix** and the **Champlain** commuted between Saint-Jean, Quebec and Whitehall in Vermont.

In 1822, the Port of Saint-Jean was the fourth most important in Canada.

THE WAR OF 1812-1814

Between 1812 and 1814, British conscripted military personnel fighting in the Anglo-American war were based at St-Jean. At the end of 1813 a report mentioned that there were seventeen officers and 952 soldiers. The Anglo-American war ended on 24 December 1814 and, on first March 1815, Fort St-Jean's military role ended. Saint-Jean was an important commercial link between the USA and Montreal.

ONE BRIDGE-THREE NAMES: WHITE – JONES – GOUIN

In 1826, Robert Jones was authorized to build the first bridge to link Dorchester (now Saint-Jean) to Christieville (now Iberville). This paying bridge was known as the white bridge because it was built of whitewashed wood. The Jones bridge was rebuilt in 1917 crossing the Richelieu river and the Chambly canal but its name changed to Gouin, in honour of Lomer Gouin, the Quebec Premier at the time.

NEWSPAPERS

In 1836, Félix-Gabriel Marchand, born at St-Jean, became a notary in 1855 and practiced for forty-five years. **In 1855**, as a journalist and writer, he co-founded **Le Franco-Canadien** in 1860. He was elected to Quebec's legislature in 1867, became the chief of the liberal opposition in 1892. Became the eleventh Premier of Quebec in 1897 but died in 1900.

In 1850, an English paper was founded at Saint-Jean: **The News**. It is now called **The News and Eastern Township Advocate**.

In 1860, two notaries: Félix-Gabriel Marchand from Saint-Jean and Valfroy Vincelette from Iberville created a newspaper called **Franco-**



Canadien. The first issue was launched on 1 June 1860. On 4 October 1895 it merged with **Le Canada-Français**, founded by Félix-Gabriel Marchand in 1893. Since 1964, this paper has been known as **Le Canada Français**.

TRAINS & WOODEN RAILROAD TRACKS*

The Champlain & St. Lawrence Railroad, was created in 1832 to link Lake Champlain to the Saint-Lawrence river. This first Canadian Wooden Railway was built between Saint-Jean and La Prairie (26 km, 16 miles), and inaugurated in 1836 by the Dorchester engine moving at 24 km/hour (15 miles/hour). (*on Internet, read the story at *Quebec & Gosford Wooden Railway*, by Damase Potvin (1879-1964) and other websites.).

PATRIOTS

In 1837-1838, two St-Jean patriots, notary Pierre-Paul Démaray and Dr. Joseph-François Davignon, involved in the rebellion, were arrested by a Montreal military detachment.

In 1839, afraid of an uprising during the Patriots' rebellion, the British decided to fortify Fort St-Jean. The British **Royal Engineers** arrived at the fort to erect new buildings; some of them still stand and are in use today.

POTTERY, CERAMICS, FAÏENCE, EARTHENWARE, SANDSTONE, PORCELAIN³

In 1840, the Farrar family from Vermont arrived at Saint-Jean-Iberville and introduced a new technique, locally unknown: the production of Mason-type ceramics, fine vitrified clay. In 1927, the demise of the last Farrar brothers marked the end of the long tradition of sandstone production in Upper-Richelieu. Ceramics had been one of the main economic sectors in the area between 1840 and 1940. (*To discover this rich history, visit the Musée du Haut-Richelieu at St-Jean. Since 1971, it is housed in the historical building on Market place. **Musée du Haut Richelieu** à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Québec).

In 1870, George Whitefield Farrar started *St Johns Stone Chinaware*, the first North American porcelain factory.

CHAMBLY CANAL

In 1818, the Lower-Canada government authorized the construction of the Chamby Canal. Work started in 1831 and was completed by 1843. The canal is 18.5 km (12 miles) long including nine locks and ten bridges. In the nineteenth century it played a vital role in the transport of wood from Canada to the USA.

WINDOW GLASS FACTORY

In 1845, in the spring, three Americans, F. Smith, W. Wilkins Jr. and E. Atwater, formed **Canada Glass Works** to make window glass. It was the first window glass factory in Canada.

MARKET PLACE

In 1858, *Butcher's Hall* was replaced by a new building (*Édifice de la Place du Marché*). It was an important business place also offering meeting halls for the town council, balls and concerts. The building was enlarged in 1876 to accommodate the police station and the fire station.

JUSTICE

In 1859, Saint-Jean's courthouse was built including a prison and an inner courtyard for the prisoners. Three people were hanged there*. The building was renovated in 1936. In 1978, the Saint-Jean prison was used when filming *Cordélia*. (*In 1878, Cyprien Costafrolaz was hanged for the murder of Mathew Mathevon at Lacolle on 24 July. Paul Dolar Lépine dit Renaud

was hanged on 24 November 1916 and Henry Frazer on 16 June 1922.).

FENIANS

Between 1866-1871, the Fenians, North-American Irish, conducted five raids into Canada but they all ended in rendition or retreat. They never reached Fort Saint-Jean due to lack of food, munitions and horses.

EDUCATION & RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS

In 1866, the Sisters of Charity from Montreal arrived at Saint-Jean and opened a hospice, a kinder-garden and later a hospital.

In 1885, six religious *Marist brothers* settled at Iberville. They built the Iberville College then Juvénat Notre-Dame (training school for future brothers) in 1892. In 1928, a new building was erected by the Richelieu river, followed by the Juvénat Saint-Joseph in 1945 and the Marcellin-Champagnat high school in 1975.

In 1911, a "Collège Classique" was inaugurated and later became the Saint-Jean Seminary. On 19 October 1939 it burned down but was rebuilt in 1942; in June 1968, it became Cégep Saint-Jean (College of general & professional education).

² On the Internet, see the history of the railroad, *Le Québec & Gosford Wooden Railway*, written by Damase Potvin. (1879-1964).

³ There's a rich history to discover at the **Musée du Haut-Richelieu** in St-Jean. Since 1971, it has been housed in the historic building on the market square. See: <https://museeduhaut-richelieu.com/> (in French)

⁴ In 1878, Cyprien Costafrolaz was hanged for the murder of Mathew Mathevon in Lacolle on July 24, 1878. Paul Dolar Lépine, known as Renaud, was hanged on 24 November 1916 and Henry Frazer on 16 June 1922.

⁵ See: <https://quescren.concordia.ca/en/exhibit/fenians-townships>

BANKS

In 1873, the *Banque de Saint-Jean*, created by Molleur, junior, Félix-Gabriel Marchand and many others, was incorporated. It burned in 1876, was rebuilt the same year but closed down in 1908.

CONFLAGRATION

In 1876, a fire started behind the Bousquet sawmill. In a few hours, fed by a strong southern wind, over three-hundred buildings in the town centre burned down. Two people died and hundreds were left homeless. After the fire, the town bought an American *Silsby* horse-drawn steam pumper, and created the first fire brigade in 1880.

CANADIAN ARMY

In 1914, a French-speaking Canadian battalion was created. The Canadian general headquarter named it the **22nd Infantry Battalion (French Canadian)**, under the command of Colonel Frédéric Gaudet.

CANADIAN ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE SAINT-JEAN

In 1952, Ottawa officially announced the creation of a new military college at Saint-Jean especially to train French-speaking officers.

In 1979, the **Language School** moved into its new quarters in the megastructure built on the military base at Saint-Jean between January 1975 and July 1978.

ANOTHER BRIDGE

In 1966, the Félix-Gabriel-Marchand Bridge was inaugurated linking the towns of Saint-Jean and Iberville, spanning the Richelieu River. The new bridge was built in 1958-1959.

HOSPITAL

In 1972, Hôpital du Haut-Richelieu, i.e., the Upper-Richelieu Hospital, built on Boulevard du Séminaire (Seminary) opened its doors to the 33,000 area inhabitants.

SAINT-JEAN-SUR-RICHELIEU

In 1978, a Lieutenant-Governor's Order in Council approved the patent letters officially changing the name of *Ville de Saint-Jean* into *Ville de Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu*.

In 2001, following a decree concerning the reorganisation and re-grouping of municipalities in Quebec, the municipalities of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Iberville, Saint-Luc, L'Acadie and Saint-Athanase, were amalgamated under one name: "Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu".

FESTIVAL DE MONTGOLFIÈRES

In 1984, the first **Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu Hot-Air Balloon Festival** entitled: **Ballons sur La Ville** was held on 20-26 August. Last August 2024, it was the 41st **International Hot-Air Balloon Festival**.

LE GRAND VERGLAS – The Great Ice Storm

In 1998, four inches of freezing rain pounded down on Southern Quebec causing a disaster of biblical proportions. Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Granby and Saint-Hyacinthe became the Dark Triangle as the whole region was without electricity from 6 to 30 January. (www.zone3.ca/en/productions/452/le-grand-verglas).

1906-2006– the American company **Singer** built a sewing machine factory at Saint-Jean, by far the largest ever in Canada. A city within a city. It closed down in 1986*.

THE 2011 FLOOD - 2011

In 2011, the Upper-Richelieu valley was declared a disaster area as the population along the banks of the Richelieu River and Lake Champlain faced the worst floods ever recorded.

350th ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDATION

In 2016, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu celebrated its 350th anniversary. To mark this important milestone, a 3D fresco: "1666-2016", 20 feet by 80 feet, was created: **Portraits of a City** was an ambitious project aiming to freeze a moment in time since the 350 years that Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu had been an official Canadian city. It earned the municipality a GUINNESS WORLD RECORD for the longest line of photographs⁷.

⁶ (*Editor's Note: Besides manufacturing the sewing machines, the plant also built wooden cabinets made of oak. The oak came from Singerville, a large, forested area in the south-west part of Potton Township. The sewing machines made at St-Jean were sold in 48 countries. There were up to 3000 employees at one point but salaries were meager. In the nineteen-sixties, the employees started demanding better wages. The conflict worsened and in 1986, the management closed up shop taking the pension fund with them. In 2006, the legal process was finally resolved and former employees, those still alive, started receiving some compensation. When Lynne McFern from Ste-Catherine, Quebec, curious to know why Saint-Jean, Québec, appeared on the label on her Singer sewing machine, she unearthed an incredible story, unfortunately with a sad ending).

⁷ See: <https://www.facebook.com/portraitsduneville>



PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2024

PREPARED AND PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF THE KFA BOARD MEMBERS

As usual, at the Annual General Meeting, I present a report of the KFA Board's activities for the year.

MEETINGS

Since the last AGM on 9 September 2023 at L'Islet, the Board met four times. On 14 October 2023 at Sainte-Foy also on 28 March 2024; then at Québec City on 17 February 2024, and at Lévis on 6 July 2024.

NEW MEMBER ON KFA BOARD

During its 6 July 2024, the Board members named Stéphane Kirouac, originally from Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup, as a new KFA administrator, in accordance with article 6.06 of our rules & regulations, for a one-year mandate to replace Serge Kirouac who, due to lack of time, had to leave his post.

During our meeting today, two more posts will have to be filled, because Marie Kirouac, a member since 1981, is not standing for re-election.

Renald Kerouack has been a Board member for two years but is not standing for re-election. Much gratitude goes to Marie, Renald and Serge for their contribution to our Association.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

In the last two years, we have been asking for your thoughts about the need for regional representatives because finding volunteers is difficult. Although the work has been simplified to a strict minimum, few people want to take it on.

Last year, it was decided to keep trying again hoping someone would at least come forward for one of the positions. One person took the plunge last September but, unfortunately, due to lack of time abandoned half-way.

It seems we need to reconsider the need for regional representatives. We want to hear from you today. Do you wish these posts to be kept or should we change our rules and regulations and abolish them? After this report is read, we need to hear from you.

VISIBILITY OF OUR ASSOCIATION AND ITS PRODUCTIONS

Website

Since our new website was put online two years ago, the results are as follows: from 31 July 2022 until 10 July 2024, there were 6,908 visits and 11,749 pages were consulted. 48.63% of the visitors were American and 42.88% Canadian, the other 8.49% were from 39 various countries.

This year, a new gallery of photos was added; photos taken at the Inauguration of Espace Jack Kerouac (JK space) at Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup.

Last year at L'Islet we enjoyed a wonderful PowerPoint produced by André Kirouac to commemorate the KFA's 45 years, 1978-2023 and it is also available on our website.

Two more publications were put online on our website. First a new French Hors-Série / English Special Issue of *Le Trésor des Kirouac* comprising 25 biographies of Alexandre de Kervoach descendants through the female line.

At the beginning of the year, a reference work about Guy Kirouac, a Warwick businessman, was also put online; it was written by Luc Boulanger in collaboration with the Warwick Historical Society.

Facebook

Since last autumn, thanks to Marc Villeneuve, our Association has a much greater presence on its Facebook page which now counts 640 friends. This, I believe, is an important pool of potential KFA members.

The challenge is how to coax these Kirouac descendants to become KFA members. Of course, we are open to suggestions from you, the actual KFA members.

Plaque in Homage to Élisabeth Chalifour and Simon-Alexandre Kirouac

The Plaque in Homage to Élisabeth Chalifour and her husband, Simon-Alexandre Kirouac, was unveiled at L'Islet last September and is now permanently displayed in the Sailors' Chapel open to the public through the tourist season.

This memorial plaque, like two others at Kamouraska and the one at Park Marie-Victorin in Kingsey Falls, give visibility to our Association and, we hope, will attract more visitors to our Website also encouraging them to become KFA members.

350th Anniversary Celebration at L'Ancienne-Lorette

The KFA was invited to the 350th Anniversary Celebration at L'Ancienne-Lorette, (near Québec City) on 23 September 2023. Six Kirouacs represented the KFA

including Céline Kirouac and Jean-Yves Laurin and his wife, Cécile (née Ferland).

The many guests were welcomed by the town mayor and one municipal Councillor, Johanne Laurin, Jean-Yves & Cécile's daughter thus a grand-niece of our famous botanist cousin. (see *Le Trésor* 143, pp. 35-37).

PROJECTS - CARRIED OUT AND ONGOING

INDEX of Articles in Le Trésor

Céline Kirouac and Lucille Kirouac started this project years ago and have been keeping up to date the **INDEX** of the hundreds of articles published in *Le Trésor*. A work of patience.

If you wish to obtain a copy of this INDEX, either in Excel or PDF, simply ask for it by email.

Protection of Personal Data

As provided by the Quebec Loi *sur la protection des renseignements personnels*, Quebec Protection of Personal Data Law, the Board has adopted a policy to that effect that is available on the KFA website.

KFA Archives

After two years of work, we finally managed to make an inventory, classify, describe, and scan all the archives accumulated since 1978, therefore reducing the total amount of "papers".

These archives as well as all the material belonging to the KFA will be transferred to L'Islet, from Lévis where they have been kept for the past forty years.

Genealogy

As in 2023, this year, the genealogical research work

somewhat slowed down because so much time was spent working on the Association's archives.

From July 2022 to July 2023, we added only 180 descendants to our database and only 1,405 related documents: deeds of baptism, marriage, and burials, censuses, funeral cards, photos of tombstones, photos of individuals, etc.

At the beginning of July 2024, the database had 15,613 descendants of Alexandre de Kervoach (10,079 spouses) and 50,643 files. So far, the number of descendants for the ancestor's two sons are 7,687 for Simon-Alexandre and 7,926 for Louis.

This year we can also add 325 known descendants from the Douglastown Kirouac branch.

Recently the KFA Board decided to use the Next Generation Technology Site Building TNG as, during the coming year, it will enable us to put all our genealogical data online.

For you, this means that you will be able to access 50,607 reference documents and also build your own genealogical tree. The data will be available for consultation purposes ONLY to KFA members in good standing.

GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This is my last activity report as KFA president.

In a few minutes, you will have to elect the Board members who will then elect a new president.

Much gratitude to everyone for letting me represent you for the past nineteen years. It has been a great honour and I will treasure the memory of this time forever.

To conclude, allow me to thank the people I have worked with during all these years. Our regional representatives: Marie Kirouac, Lucille Kirouac, Mercédès Bolduc, Georges Kirouac, Mark Pattison and Greg Kyrourac; members of the permanent committees: 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 Committee, Lucille Kirouac; our proofreaders: Céline, Lucille, Thérèse, and Robert Kirouac; our translator, Marie Lussier Timperley.

Many thanks indeed to the KFA Board members who supported me in administering the KFA this year: Marie Kirouac, Céline Kirouac, Mercédès Bolduc, Marc Villeneuve, Renald Kerouack, André Kirouac, Serge Kirouac, Stéphane Kirouac and René Kirouac.

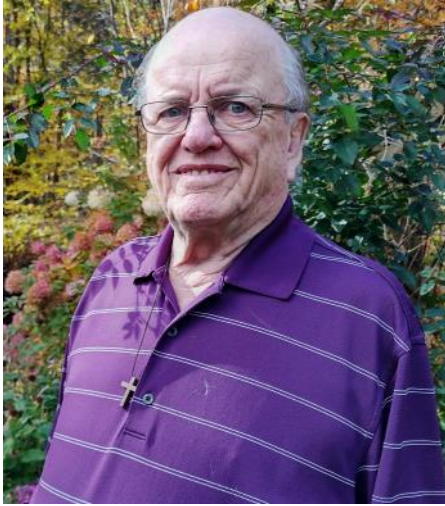
Many thanks also to those who carried out various responsibilities on the Board since 2005 and with whom I had the pleasure to work: Lucille Kirouac, Marie Lussier Timperley, Nathalie Kirouac, Lucie Jasmin, Michel Bornais and Jean-Louis Kérourac.

François Kirouac,
For the KFA Board,
10 July 2024



Renald Kérrouack & Serge Kirouac leaving KFA Board

MUCH GRATITUDE TO RENALD AND SERGE



Renald Kérrouack (Photo: François Kirouac)

As mentioned in the President's Report, p. 21 in this issue of *Le Trésor*, this year the KFA Board is losing two members.

Renald became a Board member on 13 August 2022*. In the last two years, he actively took part in every Board meeting until last spring. His interventions were always precious. Unfortunately he is leaving the Board for health reasons. We wish him a prompt recovery.

Much gratitude to you, Renald, for your generous contribution to our family association. It was most agreeable to work with you. All the very best.

The KFA Board Members.

* See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 140, Autumn 2022, p 7.



Serge Kirouac (Photo: Stéphanie Genest)

Serge Kirouac was elected to the KFA Board a year ago, at the AGM held on 9 September 2023 at L'Islet.**

General director of the Home Services Cooperative for Greater Montmagny, and a municipal councillor at L'Islet, not surprisingly, Serge leaves the KFA Board due to lack of time. We wish him success in all his present and future endeavour and hope that, once retired, he will come back as the KFA could benefit from his administrative talents.

Much gratitude to you, Serge, for your contribution to the Kirouac Family Association this past year.

The KFA Board Members.

** See *Le Trésor des Kirouac* number 143, Autumn 2023, p 18.

In the Sailors' Chapel at L'Islet-sur-Mer, one admires the memorial plaque in honour of Elisabeth Chalifour and Simon-Alexandre Keroack.

This plaque was unveiled at L'Islet in September 2023 by Arielle, Juliette and Alice Kirouac, the three granddaughters of André Kirouac, elected KFA president in September 2024.

Serge Kirouac, André's brother, as a town councillor for L'Islet is responsible for the Sailors' Chapel open to the public during the tourist season. He is also responsible for safely keeping the plaque the rest of the year.

Many thanks to Serge for doing this for our Association and for L'Islet.



STÉPHANE KIROUAC NEW KFA BOARD MEMBER



Photo: Stéphane Kirouac collection

The new KFA Board member and his family. From left to right: Stéphane Kirouac and his wife, Isabelle Lavoie, Jasmin Kirouac and his girlfriend, Florence Guérin, and his older sister, Mélanie Kirouac.

My Life Between Roots and Horizons

I was born on 29 February 1964 at Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup, my piece of paradise I have always felt deeply attached to. After completing my college education at the (Cégep) Rivière-du-Loup College, I studied pharmacy at Laval University, in Quebec City, graduating in 1988.

An Unexpected Link with Literature

What I have recently discovered is that my life story is also closely linked to an important American literary personage: Jack Kerouac. Indeed, as I dug into my genealogical tree, I learned that Edouard Kerouac, Jack's grandfather, is also my ancestor, five generations before me (see page 25). This was a real surprise for me, adding a literary and historical dimension to my own story. Moreover, I also discovered that I was baptized in Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup's parish church where Jack's father, Léo-Alcide Kirouac, was also baptized.

A Life Dedicated to the Service of Others

First, I completed one year at Trois-Pistoles (Quebec town), then moved on to Laurier-Station (Quebec village) in 1989 where I worked in a pharmacy for ten years. In 2000, with my wife, Isabelle Lavoie, also a pharmacist, we decided to open our own business. For 24 years, we served our community offering the best health quality service possible. Now, just retired in 2024, I think back with great emotion to all those years in close contact with the population.

A Family Heritage

I am proud of my origins and my family. My uncle, Gonzague Kirouac¹, was a well-known French-Canadian strongman. I always admired his strength and determination. We are also very proud of our children. Mélanie is a notary; as such perpetuating a very long family tradition when going all the way back to our Breton ancestor. As for our son, Jasmin, now a civil engineer, his career's perspectives are excellent.

¹ See *Lebris de Keroack*, number 26, December 1991, pp. 10-11.



Kirouac siblings: Stéphane Kirouac, Rino Kirouac, Lyne Kirouac, Manon Kirouac and Jean-Nil. (Photo: Stéphane Kirouac collection)

Ascendance of Stéphane Kirouac

Generation 1

Alexandre de Kervoach
dit le Bréton
Circa 1702 - 1736

Cap-Saint-Ignace (Québec)
22 October 1732

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

Generation 2

Simon-Alexandre Kéroack
dit le Bréton
(1732 - 1812)

L'Islet (Québec)
15 June 1758

Élisabeth Chalifour
(1739 - 1814)
(François and
Élisabeth Gamache)

Generation 3

Simon-Alexandre Kérouac
dit le Bréton
(1760 - 1823)

Cap-Saint-Ignace (Québec)
18 November 1782

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

Generation 4

François Kézrouac dit Bréton
(1791 - 1877)

Saint-Jean-Port-Joli (Québec)
24 October 1815

Margeline Chouinard
(1796 - 1858)
(Joseph and Margeline Lefevre
dit Francoeur)

Generation 5

Édouard Kéroack dit Bréton
(1820 - 1891)

Saint-Roch-des-Neige (Québec)
29 February 1848

Sévérine Malenfant
(1824 - 1887)
(Jean-Baptiste and Anathalie des
Trois-Maisons dit Picard)

Generation 6

Eusèbe Quiroack
(1853 - 1917)

Saint-Antoine (Québec)
22 June 1875

Clarisse Dupont
(1855 - 1891)
(Benjamin and
Clémentine Bélanger)

Generation 7

Ferdinand Kirouac
(1884 - 1941)

Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup (Québec)
23 July 1906

Adèle Ouellet
(1886 - 1961)
(Louis and Céline Martel)

Generation 8

Gérard Kirouac
(1917 - 1967)

Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup (Québec)
10 August 1940

Jeanne Tremblay
(1920 - 2000)
(Aldé and Marie Simon)

Generation 9

Stéphane Kirouac

NATHALIE KÉROACK NEW KFA BOARD MEMBER

I am a native of St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec. Upon completing my college degree and a year at Sherbrooke University in French studies, I needed a break and decided to go west, like so many young folks in the early 1980s. Not quite Route 66, but the spectacular beauty of the Canadian Prairies was an amazing discovery. What was supposed to be a summer in Lloydminster, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, extended to a whole year. Working in the local bars and restaurants to improve my English, that is where I met my love and husband, Cyril, a native of Nova Scotia, who had also heeded the call to "Go West" after completing his studies.

Brief return home in Quebec in 1981, where I completed a diploma in technical drafting which unfortunately did not yield any gainful employment in that line of work. So, I went East and settled in Halifax, Nova Scotia, when I moved to join Cyril who was starting his career as a news cameraman for a local TV station. That was more than forty years ago.

My first job in Halifax was as a bilingual debt collector for Sears. I did not stay there long as you can imagine. In spite of this most unhappy work experience, I never resumed full-time academic studies. Our first son was born in 1984, the second one in 1990. After two very short maternity leaves, I was soon back at work.

As a francophone away from Quebec, being fluently bilingual opened the door to interesting career opportunities. I was hired in 1987 by The Maritime Life Assurance Company (now Manulife Financial). Initially, I started as a contract writer, then worked my way to senior group insurance underwriter.



Nathalie Kéroack and her husband, Cyril Worth, proud grandparents of Nahla Worth. (Photo : Nathalie Kéroack collection)

After 23 years at Manulife, I needed a change, so I embarked on a new career in public service, at the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Currently I am a senior officer for Non-Resident Business Services.

But now the taste for the open sea and thirst for freedom have caught up with me. I plan to leave the CRA at the end of March 2025 for new adventures with Cyril, who had already started his retirement in 2020 during the pandemic.

Our sons Evan and Julien are settled in Montreal with their respective family. Cyril and I are the lucky Papi and Mamie to a delightful 4-year-old granddaughter, Nahla. We plan on seeing a lot more of our loved ones soon, as we will be dividing our time between Cape Breton, NS, and Montreal once we sell our house in Halifax.

Thanks to Marie T., who dared me to throw my hat in the ring during the last gathering in September, it is with great pleasure that I join the board of directors of the Kirouac Family Association. I sincerely hope to make a worthy contribution.

Nathalie Kéroack, 7 November 2024



From left to right, Julien Kéroack Worth, Nathalie Kéroack (Mamie), Nahla Worth, Cyril Worth (Papi), Evan Worth (Papa). (Photo: Nathalie Kéroack collection)

Ascendance of Nathalie Kéroack

Generation 1

Alexandre de Kéroack
dit le Breton
Circa 1702 - 1736

Cap-Saint-Ignace (Québec)
22 October 1732

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

Generation 2

Louis Kéroack
dit le Breton
(1735 - 1779)

Cap-Saint-Ignace (Québec)
11 January 1757

Catherine Miot
(1739 - 1813)
(Joseph and Hélène Le Normand
dit Jorign)

Generation 3

Jacques Kérouac
dit Breton
(1764 - 1823)

Cap-Saint-Ignace (Québec)
15 January 1788

Marie-Claire Fortin
(1766 - 1812)
(Jacques-Thimothée and
Marie-Louise Bernier)

Generation 4

Louis-Marie Kérouack
(1793 - 1870)

Saint-Michel-de-Belléchasse (Québec)
1st August 1815

Angèle Gendron
(1793 - 1858)
(Jacques and Thérèse Asselin)

Generation 5

Antoine Kérouack
(1820 - 1879)

St-François-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud (Qc)
4 November 1845

Marie Morin
(~1824 - 1898)
(René and Gervaise Gendron)

Generation 6

François-Xavier Kérouac
(1848 - 1922)

Saint-Sébastien-d'Iberville (Québec)
11 February 1873

Caroline Duval
(1852 - 1924)
(Jean-Baptiste and
Marie-Hélène dit Berton)

Generation 7

Hormidas Kéroack
(1874 - 1932)

Saint-Alexandre-d'Iberville (Québec)
22 May 1900

Rose-Délina Marcoux
(1879 - 1953)
(Michel and Délina Moquin)

Generation 8

Adrien Kéroack
(1903 - 1973)

Saint-Alexandre-d'Iberville (Québec)
5 October 1926

Simonne Dutau
(1906 - 1987)
(Joseph and Aldina St-Onge)

Generation 9

Jean-Paul Kéroack
(1927 - 2001)

Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu (Québec)
26 August 1950

Pauline Leclerc
(1931 - 2005)
(Edmour and Sylvia Régnier)

Generation 10

Nathalie Kéroack

Financial report of the KFA Annual Gathering on 7 & 8 September 2024 at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu

REVENUE	AMOUNT
Anonymous donations	\$50.02
Exchange on US\$	\$36.30
Registrations for all activities	\$2,228.44
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,314.76
EXPENSE	
Room Rental	\$289.85
Buffet Lunch (7 September 2024)	\$1,565.64
Name-tags	\$11.83
Fort Chambly Museum, guided tour (8 September 2024)	\$328.65
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,195.97
Surplus of income over expenses	\$118.79
Amount donated to the Association	\$118.79

The Jack Kerouac Space in Saint-Hubert receives a new donation of books

In 2022, our Association gave twenty-one volumes either written by Jack Kerouac or written about his life and work to the newly created *Espace Jack Kerouac* in the Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup's library. On 19 July 2023, to that we added eighteen more works about our cousin "Jack".

In September 2024, Eric Waddell, responsible for our *Jack Kerouac Observatory*, gave his private collection of books about the Father of the Beats to the *Espace Jack Kerouac*.

It is worth noting that these books now displayed at the municipal library of Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup are also available to the large *Lower-Saint-Lawrence Regional Library Network*.

Thanks to these gifts, we believe that, in the province of Quebec, the library in Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup might hold the largest collection of books either written by Jack Kerouac or about him. Our Association can be proud of these contributions highlighting the career of one of us in the



Eric Waddell and his wife, Frédérique Gonnet, the day he gave his personal collection of books to the *Espace Jack Kerouac* in September 2024. (Photo: Anne Laporte)

hometown of Alcide-Léon Kirouac known in the States as Leo Alcide Kerouac.

François Kirouac

The Kirouacs at Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud

This article was inspired by two observations: On the one hand, so many members of the Kirouac Family Association say that their ancestors were from Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud, and on the other hand, the fact that there were so many Kirouac families in that parish during a certain period, a fact that was noted by a colleague from the *Société de conservation du patrimoine de St-François-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud* (Heritage society).

Mariette Blais from Saint-Pierre is passionate about local history. Studying the history of the area, she noticed that in a 200-year period, the family name Kirouac appeared very often in documents about the history of the municipality.

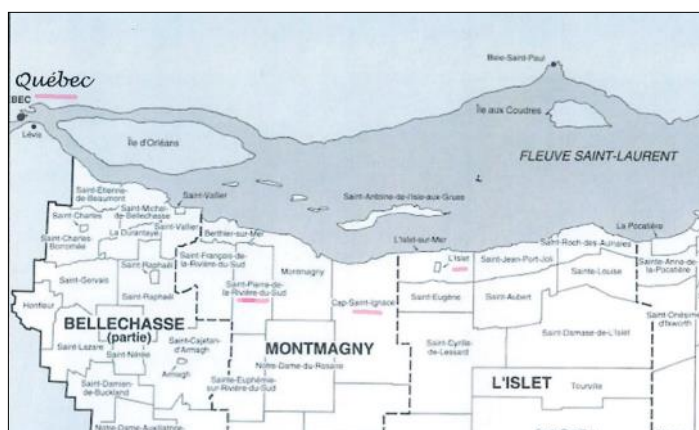
For the Kirouacs, it was no news because the presence of Kirouacs at Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud is well documented in a 170-page document written by our genealogist and president, François Kirouac, listing all the Kirouacs registered in that Parish.

Our modest contribution here will be to offer to the descendants of the Kirouacs from Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud a picture of this village of *Côte-du-Sud*, (St. Lawrence south-shore), and give an idea of the Kirouacs registered in various parish registers from 1788 to 1988, important years in our family history.

Présentation of the municipality

Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud is a municipality in the administrative region of Chaudière-Appalaches, on the south-side of the St. Lawrence River about 80 kilometres (50 miles) from Quebec City.

The name comes from **Pierre** Blanchet who, with his wife, Marianne Fournier, gave a plot of land to build the



Source: Directory of Quebec Municipalities 1993. Québec, Quebec Publications, pp. 123,138,158,177, 189, 204.



NOTE: The 2nd line of text at the top of the poster says "WHERE HEAVEN AND EARTH MEET". Photo: courtesy of Yvon Genest.

first church in 1713. As for the precision "**de-la-Rivière-du-Sud**" found in the name of a few nearby municipalities, it is due to the importance of the 86-kilometre river that snakes through the region (54 miles). The recent population is fairly constant around 900 inhabitants.

From 1627 to 1854, the seigneurial regime was prevalent in Quebec. The Seigneurie de la Rivière-du-sud granted to Charles Huault de Montmagny on 5 May 1646, included three parishes, Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud, Saint-Thomas-de-Pointe-à-La-Caille, Saint-Antoine de l'Isle-aux-Grues. In 2021, these three parishes celebrated their 375th anniversary; however, because of the COVID pandemic all celebrations only took place in 2023.



Choir and side-chapels in the church of Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud. (Photo: Firme Patri-Arch¹)

Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud's parish church built in 1784 is a patrimonial building² listed in the Quebec Provincial Cultural Heritage Register. Its exceptional cemetery is also a listed heritage site. Saint-Pierre's astronomy club called "*Ciel étoilé de St-Pierre*" (St-Pierre starry sky) is another claim to fame. Enjoy at: <http://www.clublecieletoile.com> (in French).

In history books, this village is mentioned because of one particular battle. The Quebec Defeat (1759-1760) was difficult to accept for many in Quebec, and part of the American Revolutionary War took place on Quebec soil, hence local militiamen took part in the battle at Saint-Pierre in 1776.

The Kirouacs at St-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud

During the first part of the research in the register of Baptism, emergency baptism (performed by a lay person), and birth from 1724 to 2017³ at Saint-Pierre, between 1793 and 1943 we found that 110 Kirouac babies were christened but that their surname was spelled in fifteen different ways. During the same period, at Saint-François, the neighbouring parish west of Saint-Pierre, eleven Kirouac babies were baptized as per the registers⁴ and nearly all babies were born at Saint-Pierre. At that time, there was only one missionary priest serving both parishes so the parents, very keen not

¹ *Heritage study of the church of Saint-Pierre-du-Sud. Study Report*, July 2021.

² See: <http://www.clublecieletoile.com>.

³ Jacques BLAIS and Mariette Blais, *Baptisms, ondolements, births, 1724 to 2017, Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud*, June 2018.



Church of Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud. (Photo: Véronique Bergeron)



Photo: Courtesy of Yvon Genest²

⁴ Gérard LAMONDE (1985), Jacques CHABOT (2008) and Jacques BLAIS (2008-2017), *Directory of baptisms Saint-François-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud 1734-2017*, September 2018.

to delay the christening, would go to the parish where the priest happened to be. For the same reason, we can surmise that some baptisms were performed in other neighbouring parishes like Saint-Thomas-de-Montmagny and Berthier-sur-Mer.

It seems quite clear that the Kirouacs from Saint-Pierre were mainly descendants of the large family of Louis and Catherine Méthot.

The children of Louis Kirouac and Catherine Méthot of Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud

First Name	Birth Year	Marriage	Spouse	Children	Babies baptized at Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud or at Saint-François-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud
Louis	1762	1788, Saint-Pierre	Marie-Marthe Cloutier	11	Saint-Pierre: Marie-Marthe 1792 (Louis Coulombe); Josephte 1793; Adélaïde 1794; Pierre 1796; Jeanne-Françoise 1797; Philippe -Charles 1799; Marguerite 1800; Rosalie 1801, (Olivier Deguise); Angèle 1803 (Joseph Deguise); Geneviève 1807 (Louis Coulombe); Adélaïde 1808.
Jacques	1764	1788, Cap- Saint-Ignace	Marie-Claire Fortin	13	Saint-Pierre: Louis-Marie 1793; François-Marcel 1794, Marie-Jeanne-Chantal 1795; Rosalie 1799; Jean-Baptiste 1801. Saint-François: Jacques 1790 ; Jacques 1791 (will use the first name of Germain).
		1814, Saint-Michel	Hélène Roy	2	No children baptized at Saint-Pierre or Saint-François.
		1818, Québec	Marie-Anne Gagné	3	No children baptized at Saint-Pierre or Saint-François.
Charles	1769	1792, Saint-Jean-Port-Joli	Théotiste Miville	1	No children baptized at Saint-Pierre or Saint-François.
		1801, Saint-Pierre	Josepte Blanchette	10	Saint-Pierre: Angélique 1802; Jean-Charles 1804; Léon 1805; Marie-Louise 1814; Marie-Denis 1817.
Marie-Louise	1772	1790, Saint-Pierre	Jean-Marie Lepage	2	No children baptized at Saint-Pierre or Saint-François.
Joseph-Marie	1775	1794, Saint-Pierre	Marguerite MacDonell	2	Saint-Pierre: Catherine 1797.
		1801, Lévis	Marie-Louis Poiré	3	Saint-Pierre: Marie-Anne 1803; Stanislas 1805.
		1806, Saint-Pierre	Marie Gesseron dit Brûlotte	15	Saint-Pierre: Suzanne 1806; Rufine 1807; Didace 1808; Marcel 1812; Polycarpe (later became Paul or Hyppolite) 1815; Julie 1816; Agapit 1819; Julie-Appoline 1821; Louise (married under the name of Elisabeth) 1822; Ursuline 1824; Louis-Godfroi 1829. Saint-François: Louis 1818.
Pierre	1777	1797, Montmagny	Marie-Anne Joncas	12	Saint-Pierre: Marie-Marguerite 1798; Pierre 1800; Louis-Grégoire 1801; Marie-Anne 1803; Édouard 1804; Joseph-Marie 1806; Brigitte 1807; Constance 1808; Anastasie 1810; Charles-Frédéric 1813. Saint-François: Henriette 1811.
		1817, Saint-François-de-l'Isle-d'Orléans	Catherine Lepage		No children baptized at Saint-Pierre or Saint-François.

Marriages at Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud (Kirouac husband)

Date	Husband	Father	Mother	Wife	Father	Mother
27 Oct 1788	Louis	Louis	Catherine Méthot	Marie-Marthe Cloutier	Charles	Marthe Picard
25 Nov 1794	Joseph	Louis	Catherine Méthot	Marguerite MacDonell	René	Marguerite Bouchard
20 Jul 1801	Charles	Louis	Catherine Méthot	Josette Blanchette	Augustin	Angélique Jalbert
19 Aug 1806 (3 rd marriage)	Joseph	Louis	Catherine Méthot	Marie Gesseron dit Brûlotte	Charles	Marie Côté
18 May 1818	François-Marcel	Jacques	Marie-Claire Fortin	Françoise Lacombe	Charles	Madeleine Fournier
10 Jan 1825	Louis-Grégoire	Pierre	Marie-Anne Joncas	Thérèse Picard	Louis	Françoise Arnois
31 Aug 1829	Joseph-Marie	Pierre	Marie-Anne Joncas	Nathalie Lecompte	Jean-Baptiste	Marguerite Samson
18 Jul 1859	Pierre	Louis	Catherine Picard	Hermine Blanchet	Pierre	Marie Bacon
16 Apr 1877	Noé	Édouard	Rosalie Fournier	Emma Blais	Jean-François	Éléonore Couture
04 Mar 1878	Louis	Marcel	Françoise Gagné	Zélie Blanchet	Joseph	Philippine Morin
30 Jun 1903	William	Martial	Anna Caouette	Jeanne Bouffard	François	Marie Turgeon
10 Jul 1905	Arthur	Noé	Emma Blais	Amanda Lavergne	Louis	Marguerite Caron
08 Jul 1907	Édouard	Noé	Emma Blais	Alexina Dubé	Auguste	Hermine Roy
28 May 1912	Joseph	Charles	Philomène Noël	Lucie-Anne Lecompte	Phydime	Clara Blais
30 Oct 1939	Odilon	William	Jeanne Bouffard	Simonne Pelletier	Eugène	Eugénie Bernier
30 Oct 1939	Ferdinand	William	Jeanne Bouffard	Germaine Lebel	Arsène	Marie-Anne Lord

Marriages at Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud (Kirouac wife)

Date	Wife	Father	Mother	Husband	Father	Mother
15 Nov 1790	Louise	Louis	Catherine Méthot	Jean-Marie Lepage	Louis-Marie	Françoise Gobeil
16 Jun 1812	Claire	Jacques	Marie-Claire Fortin	Louis Langlois	Jean-Marie	Josette Gaulin
06 Oct 1812	Marguerite	Joseph-Marie	Marguerite MacDonell	Joseph Bissonnette	Joseph	Catherine Furois
11 Feb 1822	Angélique	Charles	Joseph Blanchette	Louis Blais	Alexis	Geneviève Proulx
07 Feb 1825	Marie-Anne	Joseph-Marie	Marie-Louise Poiré	Jérémie Bouchard	Nicolas	Marguerite Brochu
20 Feb 1827	Constance	Pierre	Marie-Anne Joncas	Augustin Charbonneau	Joseph	Marguerite Morency
05 Aug 1828	Brigitte	Pierre	Marie-Anne Joncas	Joseph Létourneau	Joseph	Thérèse Gamache
02 Oct 1832	Rufine	Joseph	Marie (Gesseron) Brûlotte	Pierre Métivier	Michel	Marie Laflamme
12 Jan 1864	Rosalie	Édouard	Rosalie Fournier	François-Xavier Caron	François-Xavier	Olive Côté
04 Feb 1884	Joséphine	Édouard	Rosalie Fournier	Zoël Boutin	Joseph	Suzanne Henry
16 Jun 1900	Rose-Anna	Martial	Anna Caouette	Fortunat Picard	Pierre	Catherine Gagné
11 Jul 1910	Auxilia	Louis	Azélie Blanchette	Arthur Proulx	Théophile	Delvina Picard
27 Oct 1912	Rose-Délina	Louis	Azélie Blanchette	Maximilien Gaumond	Maximilien	Arthémise Paquet
03 Sep 1917	Delphine	Louis	Azélie Blanchette	Arthur Lemieux	François	Délina Mignault
23 Apr 1924	Annette	William	Jeanne Bouffard	Philippe Létourneau	Joseph	Vitaline Mathieu
11 Nov 1950	Doris	Charles	Maria Boissonneault	Aimé Gagné	William	Aurore Picard
24 Sep 1952	Pauline	Charles	Maria Boissonneault	Jules Leblanc	Alphonse	Blanche Couillard
18 Jul 1964	Claudette	Charles	Maria Boissonneault	Jean-Guy Gaudreau	Maurice	Alice Simard

In his book, *The Ancestor and his family*⁵, François Kirouac writes that Louis died in 1779. It also says that, in 1788, his widow, Catherine, married Germain Morin dit Valcourt from Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud. It is therefore

possible that her unmarried children moved in with her in her new parish.

As for christening, we can also surmise that some marriages may have been celebrated in neighbouring parishes. We know of three marriages registered at Saint-François-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud⁶ (the parish was dedicated to Saint Francis de Sales), including two children of Pierre and of Charles were most likely from Saint-Pierre.

Date	Wife	Father	Mother	Husband	Father	Mother
25 Nov 1817	Théotiste	Charles	Théotiste Miville-Deschênes	Joseph Ducros-Laterreur	Pierre	Marie Dubé
01 Oct 1838	Anastasie	Pierre	Marie-Anne Joncas	André Gagné	Pierre	Éléonore Leblanc
Date	Husband	Father	Mother	Wife	Father	Mother
04 Nov 1845	Antoine	Louis	Angèle Gendron	Marie Morin	René	Marie-Anne Gervaise Gendron

Funeral and burial of Kirouacs at Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud

The register of funerals and burials from 1728-2018⁷ shows that, if we consider the period 1788-1988, there were 88 Kirouac deaths between 1796 and 1952. Later on, there were three more recent deaths at Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud, but only one for each year: 1993, 1994, 2006; whereas the last baptism was in 1945 and the last marriage in 1964.

Conclusion

Parish registers clearly indicate an important presence of Kirouac families at Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud during the period 1788 to 1988. However, it also shows a declining presence: Business people moved to large cities, farmers looked for regions offering more and larger farmland and other people simply followed the important migrating movement towards industries in New England, north-east USA.

Lucille Kirouac
who feels like she is perhaps the only Kirouac representative in the municipalities of Saint-François and Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud in 2024.

Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud Cemetery



Photos: Véronique Bergeron

⁵ François KIROUAC. *The ancestor of the Kirouac families in America, his wife and their sons. Synthesis of genealogical research carried out from 1973 to 2013.* Kirouac Family Association, 2013, page 93.

⁶ Abbé Armand PROULX, *Marriages of Saint-François-de-Sales, Rivière-du-Sud, Montmagny, 1749-1973.*

⁷ Jacques BLAIS, *Funerals and burials of Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud, 1728 to 2018. Survey and compilation,* 3 February 2018.



*Tombstones of
 de Kervoach descendants
 in Saint-Pierre-de-la-
 Rivière-du-Sud Cemetery*

MARIE-VICTORIN, CONRAD AND ME IN CUBA

ANDRÉ KIROUAC

This is my third and last article entitled *Voyage in The Company of...* After a trip in Brittany in the company of Jack, then in Rome, in the footsteps of Jules-Adrien, now let's go to Cuba, the mythical island, enticing, exotic and with its multiple visages.

Nowadays, people go there to rest. In the Forties and Fifties, casinos attracted a colourful clientele, including one person, my father; something I did not expect from him. Also, a scientist and botanist, well known in our family, went for his botanical studies (and more personal ones) at the same time enjoying the local climate that was so much better for his health.

Also, Pierre Lemoyne d'Iberville landed in the region but it was a question of war and slaughter. Somewhat a hero, he died in Cuba and his mausoleum is in Havana.

And I? I went there twice, in 2001 and 2005. Why? Nice weather? Not really, as I remember the gloomy clime on both trips. Of course, I knew about Marie-Victorin, the famous Conrad, going there between 1938 and 1944; before my Conrad?

But no, that was not the reason because I learned about that much later. Was it because of the other Conrad, my father? Well, yes. Once more, it was the reason! And that followed by discovering four slides forgotten in his metal box where all the slides of his trips to Europe, Florida and, it seems, Cuba were stored!

Honestly, the first time I went in 2001, my idea was for my girlfriend and I to walk in Havana. I wanted to do the Malecon, admire the ocean, discover the streets in the old



Conrad Kirouac (at the bottom of the stairs) and Gérard Mercier boarding a flight of the *Compania Cubana Aviacion*, January 1949. (Photo: Conrad Kirouac collection)

city, walk in front of the famous Hotel Nacional and, once more, take a photo where my father once stood. The second time, in 2009, I fell for an all-included holiday! As you can easily guess, I will dwell on my first stay.

As I write this, I am asking myself what is the link between Marie-Victorin, my father and I if I use the words: Cuba! Sun! Ocean! Plants! Casinos! Blank! I could not think about anything! Therefore, in the present article, I decided to choose a known field and play with two words I am familiar with: dictatorship and war!

In the middle of a World War Marie-Victorin goes to Cuba, and it is also in the first episode of Fulgencio Batista's dictatorship. My father ... When did he go to Cuba?

We know the dates of Marie-Victorin's trips. The first of his seven journeys was in December 1938 and the last one in May 1944. I already mentioned that I went in 2001 and 2009; whereas I don't know when my father went! Let's say that I did not know then!

For years, I could only presume. It seems that nowhere could I find a date when he visited Cuba and Havana. My mother's memory was blank on the subject. Although I

know that they were not married at the time he went. They never talked about it. Or so little. I will come back to that later.

Nothing at all until while writing the first draft for this article, suddenly, I went back to check my father's boxes of mementoes and keepsakes. Just in case as I knew he kept everything and more if possible.

Without warning, an envelope called me. Never seen before. Never opened by me. A lost envelope under a mountain of European and Quebec pamphlets. They were all from a travel agency called Touristaide. I was puzzled. I saw the mention of Billets-Tickets. What was in that envelope? A passenger-list for a trip to Florida and Cuba, departing from Quebec City on 21 January 1949.

Among a few dozen names, I read: Gérard Mercier from Saint-Cyrille-de-L'Islet and one Conrad Kirouac! Cost of the ten-day trip? \$249. (about \$3000 Canadian dollars today). It said: travel by coach to Florida and 48 hours in Cuba. These few lines on two pages, gave me the un hoped for and the unexpected answer to years of questioning. When I was young, I imagined my father being a revolutionary or an inveterate casino gambler in Havana. He loved travelling and exploring but I could not imagine him on a travel package tour!

It must have been quite a holiday, as it was even written up in the social column in the Montreal daily **Le Devoir** on First February 1949. This is very serious; my father's name is there!

FLORIDE

ET

HAVANE

EXCURSION DE 20 JOURS DE QUEBEC



DÉPART: 8 Janvier 49 (De Québec) \$219.⁰⁰
(Retour à Québec 28 Janvier)

COMPRENANT

- .- Autobus privé Greyhound
- .- Guide bilingue (de Québec)
- .- Hôtels de luxe (liste ci-dessous)
- .- 2 Tours de ville (Miami New-York)
- .- Excursion à Key-West (350 milles)
- .- Visite du Marine Studio

7 Jours à Miami 1 Jour à Washington
2 Jours à New-York

ITINERAIRE

- | | | | |
|----|--------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 21 | 8 Janvier : | Québec - Montréal | Hôtel Windsor |
| 22 | 9 Janvier : | Montréal - Albany | Hôtel Wellington |
| 23 | 10 Janvier : | Albany - Philadelphie | Hôtel Adelpia |
| 24 | 11 Janvier : | Philadelphie - Richmond | Hôtel Jefferson |
| 25 | 12 Janvier : | Richmond - Augusta | Hôtel Sheraton Bon Air |
| 26 | 13 Janvier : | Augusta - Ste-Augustine | Hôtel Ponce de Léon |
| 27 | 14 Janvier : | Ste-Augustine - Miami | Hôtel Robert Clay |
- (Place - Visites - Magasinage - 1 tour gratuit)

EXTRA SPECIAL: Ceux qui participeront, à ce premier départ
bénéficieront d'un voyage gratuit à Key-West

249.⁰⁰ comprend un voyage de
48hres à Cuba

- | | | | |
|----|--------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 3 | 21 Janvier : | Miami - Ste-Augustine | Hôtel Ponce de Léon |
| 4 | 22 Janvier : | Ste-Augustine - Augusta | Hôtel Sheraton Bon Air |
| 5 | 23 Janvier : | Augusta - Richmond | Hôtel Jefferson |
| 6 | 24 Janvier : | Richmond - Washington | Hôtel Ambassador |
| 7 | 25 Janvier : | Washington - New-York | Hôtel Lincoln |
| 8 | 26 Janvier : | Tour de ville à New-York | --Libre |
| 9 | 27 Janvier : | New-York - Montréal | Hôtel Windsor |
| 10 | 28 Janvier : | Montréal - Québec | Retour au foyer |

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CARNET MONDAIN

Drummondville. Pas de faire-part.

DEPLACEMENTS

Prendent part à la présente excursion d'hiver Floride-Cuba organisée par l'agence de voyage Touristaide, les voyageurs suivants: M. et Mme Edouard Guillemette, Québec; Mlle Anselmie Lamontagne, Québec; M. et Mme Noël Hébert, Sherbrooke; M. Fernand Royer, St-Hénédine; M. le curé L.-P. Méthot, St-Jean-des-Piles; M. Conrad Kirouac et M. Gérard Mercier, St-Cyrille; M. et Mme Edmond Lachance, St-Jean; M. J.-E. Foucault, Montréal; M. Jos. Mercier, Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré; Mme Adolphe Beauré, Sherbrooke; Mme Chs-A. Cardin, St-Anselme; M. et Mme J. Allyn, Québec; Mlle Victoria et Cora Dupré, Granby; M. et Mme Joseph Proulx, St-Séverin de Beauce; M. Ernest Gagnon, Trois-Pistoles; Mme André Perron, Rimouski; Mme Armand Laperrière, Trois-Rivières.

Excerpt from: *Le Devoir*, 1st February 1949

Marie-Victorin, Brother León and Cuban Plants

Here is the story. Going to Havana in 1938¹. Already in 1932, in a letter to Marie-Victorin, dated 28 May, Brother León (or León in French, or Leo in English) is asking Marie-Victorin when they would see each other again. *When are you coming to Cuba? Do come while my legs can still carry me, because if you wait too long, I may not be able to be your guide.*²

This brother León (Joseph Sylvestre Sauget) was born in the French Jura in 1871 and died in 1955. He joined the Brothers of the Christian Schools (De La Salle Congregation) in France. He taught at the College at Longueuil (Montreal south-shore) as early as 1904. He met Brother Marie-Victorin at that time and they became friends. In 1905, he left for Havana and started collecting plants on the Island of Cuba. From 1907 until 1944, he wrote regularly to Marie-Victorin sending him lots of plant specimens. Together they wrote (in French): *Itinéraires botaniques de l'île de Cuba* (Botanical Itineraries in the Island of Cuba).

I thought I would be writing about Castro and my father. Or possibly about dictator Batista. But I must be happy with Carlos Prío Socarrás, who was president of Cuba in 1949 until the coup d'état in 1952 when Fulgencio Batista took over. For the moment, we will leave my father getting ready for his trip and go back in time to talk about the other Conrad who is definitely better known worldwide.

¹ Deliberately, this text does not mention the correspondence between Marie-Victorin and Marcelle Gauvreau nor about the "biological research" carried out by Marie-Victorin while on the island.

² Marie-Victorin at Cuba - Annotated correspondence, 1907-1944 - Montreal University Edition (openedition.org)

But it will take six years before Marie-Victorin makes it to Cuba. Since 1936, Federico Laredo Brú was president in Cuba and lost his seat to the future Dictator Fulgencio Batista on 10 October 1940, who took over for a first four-year term as president before coming back to power in 1952 after a coup d'état, seizing power by force.

In the correspondence exchanged between the two religious brothers, I tried to find some references to Batista or the war. I think I can say that there was extremely little said, nothing about the dictatorship of course and once in a while the word 'war' appeared.

About Batista, you may be surprised to learn that our two friends mentioned him, however it had to do with his wife! In a letter dated May First, 1939, brother Léon writes:

*Madame Geménez Lasnier just obtained that X be put at the disposition of the President of the Republic; thus he was able to prepare Madame's Cacti for the National Floriculture Exposition and win the first prize in each category in the two sections where she exhibited them. Whereas the Republic President's wife, Batista's wife, etc., did not get any prize. As you see, here we do things with conscience. (The judge was American.)*³

This is far from political commentaries, nevertheless it raises one question I was unable to solve. Batista was elected president on 10 October 1940 but Brother Léon talks about Batista's wife as the wife of the president of the Republic in May 1939. Mystery!

Then, who is this Mrs. Geménez Lasnier mentioned in the letter? In the archives of Montreal University there is a letter among Marie-Victorin's correspondence where one reads: In a letter to Mrs. Lasnier, dated 15 December 1939, offering his best wishes for the holiday season, Marie-Victorin wrote: My sisters and I keep a vivid memory of your cordial reception, and I am not exaggerating when I say that you are the person who taught us to appreciate this distinguished aristocrat from Havana, that not everybody knows. (Montreal University Archives).⁴ Marie-Victorin mentions his sisters⁵. They accompanied him in 1939 and probably stayed at the La Salle College at Santiago de Cuba.

Marie-Victorin was in Cuba from 28 December 1938 until 15 March 1939, then again in August 1939 from 3rd to 29th. On 3 September, the United Kingdom and France declared war on Germany; then Canada on 10 September. The two brothers must have kept each other abreast of the latest war news.

And they must have heard about the tragic odyssey of the MS St-Louis? On 13 May 1939, the ship left Hamburg, Germany, on its way to Havana with 937 Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazi regime.

In Cuba, the refugees were denied permission to land because of German influence. Next destination was Florida; landing was denied again. During that time some groups were trying to get them to land in Canada. The government refused to accept them, and the ship was forced to sail back to Europe, to Belgium exactly. Horror has no boundaries; 254 of these Jews perished in Nazi concentration camps. It is only in 2018 that Justin Trudeau asked forgiveness in the name of the Canadian people.



Cuba (Madruga). Cuba (Madruga). Brother Leo near a *Copernicia Torreana*. Photograph 1939. (Photo: Division des archives de l'Université de Montréal. (E01185FP11434))

³ Marie-Victorin at Cuba - Annotated correspondence, 1907-1944 – Montreal University Edition)

⁴ Op. cit.

⁵ Eudora Kirouac Laurin, Laura Kirouac Lebel. About Mrs. Brown, a mystery I did not try to solve



Mantanzos Terrace. From left to right are Mrs. Brown*, Mrs. Laurin, Mrs. Lebel, and Brother Marie-Victorin. Photograph 1939. (Photo: Archives Division of the Université de Montréal, E0118_Cuba_02)

* Marie-Thérèse Roy, wife of Paul Livernois (physician and son of Jules-Ernest Livernois, photographer) and second wife of William Brown (physician in Quebec City).

Generally, the two religious brothers do not discuss the war. Is it because they know that their letters are read and censored? Possibly, if we go by a letter written before 1944. The following letter written by Brother Léon was censored and a word was deleted:

He will have received nothing⁶ from Dr. Barbour, even if his name was on the list of addressees, and perhaps, the others will not have received anything either. Is it because of the war? We certainly start to feel that we are at war; the other day, U Boats sank two of our ships; some thirty people died, they were honoured by magnificent national funeral. Yesterday, members of the 5th column tried to blow up the gas depot at Mariel cement factory that supplies cement to (CENSORED) at San Antonio de Los Baños, but the army stopped them and is hunting them now. Nevertheless mail is still arriving except for the Itinéraires.⁷

According to what brother Léon writes, some passages are important as he writes that he can feel the war's effects, perhaps for the first time, and this is already in 1943⁸ or 1944! How can we know what



Brothers Marie-Victorin and Léon in the Sierra de Nipe (Cuba) near a *Tillandsia*. (Photo 1941, Division des archives de l'Université de Montréal, E01185FP12606)



Santiago de Cuba. The Collège de la Salle, home of the Brothers of the Christian Schools where Marie-Victorin stayed. (Photo 1939, Division des archives de l'Université de Montréal, E0118_Cuba_04)

Marie-Victorin thinks about the war? His opinions? Maybe not, however, he has heard about it, and even discussed the use of certain plants as part of the war effort.⁹

It is the same for more personal and family memories that I could not detect in texts written about Marie-Victorin. We know that he died on 15 July 1944, but did he learn about the death of his nephew, Robert Maranda¹⁰, a month before on 8 June, when his plane was shot down by the Germans over the English Channel?

Anyway, Marie-Victorin does not take into account the dangers of war if we consider his seven trips between 1938 and 1944. In Europe, during those years, it is a real carnage, towns are obliterated, and millions are dead. Even in the province of Quebec, in 1942 and 1944, German U Boats inflicted great losses of ships and personnel along Canada's east coast.

Conrad My Father and My Friend

Is it normal to ask so many questions when the time comes to choose what we love passionately or what we deeply want? Marie-Victorin lives for

⁶ NOTE: talking about copies of *Botanical Itineraries on The Island of Cuba*.

⁷ Marie-Victorin at Cuba – Annotated Correspondence 1907-1944 - Presses de l'Université de Montréal (openedition.org)

⁸ Brother Léon may be referring to the sinking, by the German U-176, of two ships, *Nickeliner* and *Mambi* along the Cuban coasts on 13 May 1943; however, it is impossible to check that as the Germans were active for many months off the Caribbean Islands.

⁹ See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, Number 145, Summer 2024, pp 14-20.

¹⁰ Spitfire officer-pilot, Robert Maranda, was the son of Bernadette Kirouac (Marie-Victorin's sister) and Albert Maranda. See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, Number 100, Summer 2010, pp 7-10.

plants, for botany and even if I don't want to expand on the subject, and for his friend, Marcelle. As for my father, why Cuba in 1949? And only for 48 hours after a few days in Florida.

Once more, on this point all is speculation except for one word from my mother who, when I seriously asked her about "Cuba" only volunteered one answer: my father wanted to go to the casino! This is only one very slim lead.

I understand that he did not go alone but with a friend. For a very long time, should I say forever, he was an illustrious unknown. Until I found the passenger list. This Gérard Mercier must have been an excellent friend to be willing to spend \$249.

It is an organized group tour. Who are the women in the photo standing, it seems, in front of a hotel in either Florida or Havana?

I thought they may be standing on a balcony of the famous Hotel Nacional. Could that be? I have looked at lots of photos of that hotel and I am still not convinced. If not, which hotel?



Group of women probably on a hotel balcony
(Photo: Conrad Kirouac collection, date unknown)

Another mystery, are they even Canadians? If so, could they be Victoria and Cora Dupré from Granby, who were also part of the group! Father Méthot, parish priest at Saint-Jean-des-Piles was also part of the group, for good behaviour.

My father even photographed his friend Mercier behind fake prison' bars, also alone when boarding. As usual without any additional comment or information.

Obviously neither the two Conrads or their friends saw Fidel Castro and his revolutionaries. But who knows? Castro got married in 1948 and had a son in 1949. Was it already known that he had been part of the landing in the Dominican Republic in 1946 and in the uprising in Columbia in 1948? Is he already thinking about his future revolution to start in 1953?

For the Cuban revolutionaries, it is the beginning of the end of Batista's regime and of the USA's grip on their country. The guerrilleros spent three

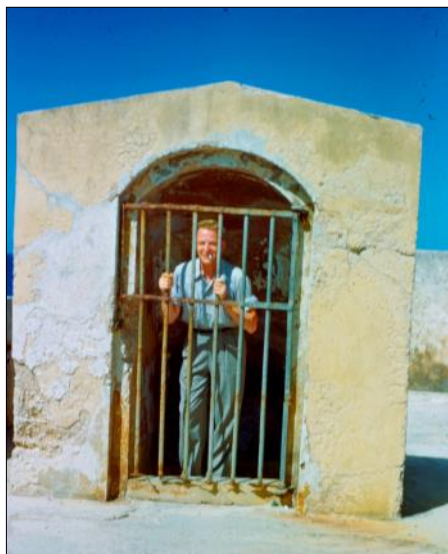


Photo: Conrad Kirouac collection



Hôtel Nacional

(Photo: nurzumspass, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons)

years attacking the dictator's forces and convincing the population to support the revolution. During those tumultuous years, the casinos were always full of usually wealthy North Americans, money was flowing and corruption ramping.

Just look at the film **Havana** by Sydney Pollack (1990) with Robert Redford to witness the foreigners' complacency. Castro took over on First January 1959, but until New-Year's eve 1958 (La Saint-Sylvestre) people were betting at the roulette tables.

Panic instantly took over; Americans and Canadians too, left in a hurry, leaving behind hundreds of Fords and Chevrolets still running today.

Did Conrad, my father, and Conrad, the religious brother, ever go into a casino? Did they see or feel the nascent whiff of the revolution?

They are Canadians and then Canada's links were military and likely strategic. In December 1952, the Ottawa daily, *Le Droit*, mentions the return home of two Canadian ships, *La Hullose* and *Crescent* arriving from Cuba. Only in November 2016 will a Canadian vessel make a return trip to the Caribbean island, the frigate *Frederickton*¹¹, when Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, went on a trade trip.

For that occasion, the following press release was issued by the Prime Minister's office:

I would like to thank President Castro and the Cuban people for their warmth and hospitality. It is no wonder that so many Canadians keep returning every year to this beautiful country. The visit showed me how much we have in common, the tremendous opportunities that exist to build closer social and economic ties between our nations,

*and Cuba's openness to frank and respectful exchanges on governance, human rights and other important social issues. Canada and Cuba are long-standing partners, with a friendship based on respectful engagement. This year marks the 71st anniversary of diplomatic relations. —Rt. Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada.*¹²

Between the visit of the Canadian ships, Castro's landing and the beginning of the revolution, I have another idea about what could possibly have pushed Conrad, my father, to go to Cuba given my mother's only comment that he went to go to the casino.

Then, I too went to Cuba

Anyway, my father immortalized his passage on the island thanks to a few photos. One inspired me, the last one taken in 1949 of the El Morro lighthouse seen from the **Malecón**. And my photo taken in 2001.

As I said before, I can never resist the temptation to take photos where my father did years before me. So when I arrived in Havana in January 2001, that is exactly what I did.

As I landed in Havana for the first time in January 2001, am I aware that the country was still under Castro's dictatorship? That opposing journalists and anti-Castro are still prisoners without trial? That the population is still prisoner in its own country?

Strangely enough, everyone I meet seems smiling. Is it because we are tourists bringing foreign money? That we might buy contraband cigars? (But we did not).



El Morro lighthouse from the **Malecón** at Havana in the Nineteen Fifties

(Photo: Conrad Kirouac collection)

¹¹ A Canadian war ship goes to Cuba for the first time in over fifty years - Canada.ca

¹² Canada's Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, ends a successful first official visit to Cuba | Prime Minister of Canada (pm.gc.ca)



El Morro lighthouse from the **Malecón** at Havana in 2001.

(Photo: André Kirouac)

We strolled along some less popular streets, strolled through a public market, sipped a coffee standing at an improvised café at the window of a private home.

We ambled *along the Malecon admiring the ocean but, on the opposite side, the worn-down apartment blocks*, always accompanied by the noisy backfiring vintage American cars. From a distance, we admired the **Hotel Nacional** imagining my father standing under the porch awning.

Somewhat my spouse knows the military history as much as I do, I could imagine the January 1959 revolutionaries, I remembered meeting sailors who lived through the Cold War period and remembered the Russian nuclear submarines. Or the repercussions of the 1962 missile crisis, when history stood on the threshold of a third world war.



Façade of the Cathedral of the Virgin Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Havana.

(Photo: Velvet, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons)

Almost whispering about it, without thinking that diplomatic relations between Canada and Cuba started in 1945 according to the 2016 press release. A communiqué signed by Justin Trudeau whose father was such a friend of Castro that Castro travelled to Montreal in 2000, to attend the funeral of the former Canadian Prime Minister.

As for Cuba, Canada's politics differs from that of the USA, a rare situation; it also happened when Canada refused to take part in the American campaign in Iraq. The history of wars and conflicts is never straightforward, usually full of blips and upheavals and sometimes intriguing. For Quebeckers and Canadians, our relationship with the island of Cuba seems to be unique.

Marie-Victorin went there for research and his health! My father for a holiday and the casinos. And I? To visit a town where, once more, my father had been.

Or else? Or else, what?

A visit in the countryside, towards the region of Piñar del Rio and the Viñales Valley. We visited a tobacco plantation and admired the scenery. A part of the world that Marie-Victorin, the other Conrad, most likely saw.

Or else: his faithful friend, Brother Leon, wrote: *We were able to use Brother Adrien's Chrysler to go to Viñales, and on the way we found the plant full of fruits.*¹³

Now that we know more about Marie-Victorin's biological research making headlines, will I go back one day? I doubt very much it would be intriguing.

¹³Brother Léon to Marie-Victorin, 15 March 1939, Marie-Victorin at Cuba - Annotated correspondence, 1907-1944 - Presses de l'Université de Montréal (openedition.org)

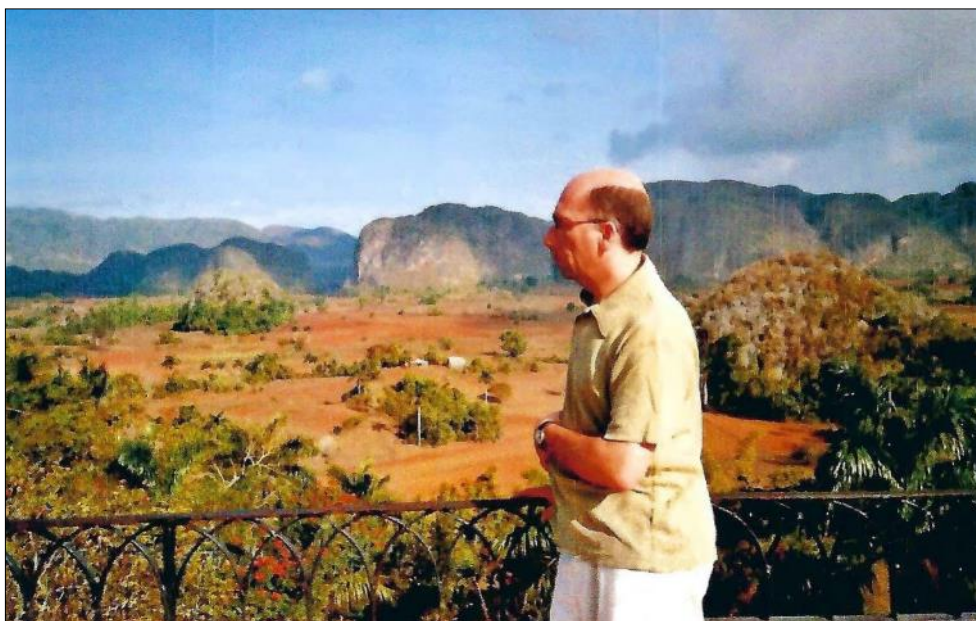


View of the Malecón, the Monument to the Victims of Maine and the José Martí Anti-Imperialist Tribune from the National Hotel - Havana, Cuba.

(Photo: Marco, CC BY-SA 2.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons)

Havana's 18th Century Fortress.

(Photo: Daydier Bernal Calvo, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons)



Viñales Valley, January 2001
(Photo: André Kirouac collection)

TRIP TO ARKANSAS

by Greg Kyrrouac

Earlier this year in mid-winter, I received a phone call from Sue Rash, who is the great-great-great granddaughter of Policarpe K  rouac dit Breton, who was born and baptized on 26 Jan 1815 in St-Pierre-de-la-Rivi  re-du-Sud¹. He was also known as Paul (GFK 00178) as well as Hippolyte at various times in his life. Sue and I have been communicating by phone for around twenty years or so, but we had never met.

Sue and I have been communicating by phone for around twenty years or so, but we had never met. This time, she was calling me to help her out in hosting a reunion of the descendants of Paul's son, Joseph. Joseph Curwack was born in the province of Quebec in 1845. His family moved to Bourbonnais, Illinois in the mid-1850s, as did my ancestors.

As he was about to turn 18, Joseph's last name was changed when he registered for the Union Army in Chicago rather than in Kankakee County. He pronounced his surname as a French-Canadian would say it. So, the English speaking officer wrote his name as Curwack, and if the Army says your name is Curwack, that's what it is.

I told Sue that I was willing to help her and would attend the reunion, but my problem was although I had been doing genealogy research on the Curwacks for years, I had only actually met three cousins from her branch during my lifetime, and now two were deceased. I told her I would do my best.

So, I sent a message through Facebook to the Curwick Family group, hoping some might be interested. I also continued to search for more relatives and found a few online and sent messages and letters to those that I found, telling them to contact Sue.

The reunion was scheduled for Saturday, June 22 in Pleasant Grove, Arkansas at their Community Center. I met my 4th Curwack descendant when I picked up Sue at her house and transported the food in my car.

She cooked a traditional Arkansas meal, which included fried chicken, fried potatoes, black-eyed peas, great northern beans and a cake.

As it turned out, there were only four of us in attendance, Sue, me, and Richard "Rick" Curwick and his wife, Vicki who live in Liberty Hill, Texas. Rick's mother, Dorothy Sandling Curwick², had passed a few weeks before and they had attended her funeral the previous week. Rick & Vicki brought pulled pork with buns, and I brought some soft drinks.



Could Sue Rash have inherited the Le Bihan genes, as Le Bihan means the small one in the Breton language? Sue proudly standing between her cousins, Rick and Greg. (Photo: Vicky Curwick)

Sue also brought some of her family photos for us to see. We talked and visited for several hours and then Rick & Vicki went on their way, and I took Sue back to her home. We visited a little longer, and then I returned to Illinois.

I met my 5th Curwack descendant this past month who happens to live near my wife's hometown!

I am hoping that we can encourage more relatives to attend next year, since Sue will celebrate her 80th birthday in May. She says that her family members who could not make this past gathering have said that they will also be there for her.

¹See *Le Tr  sor des Kirouac*, no. 106, Winter 2011-2012, pp. 7-14, *The K/ families in Illinois, USA*.

² See *Le Tr  sor des Kirouac*, no.145, Summer 2024, p. 44.

IN MEMORIAM

BEAUDET, PIERRE (1949-2024)

At home, in Terrebonne, Quebec, on 29 July 2024, aged 74, died Pierre Beaudet. He was the son of the late Neuville Beaudet and the late Marguerite Kirouac-Beaudet (**GFK 01152**)*. He leaves to mourn his wife Suzanne L'heureux and his daughter, Caroline; his wife's children: Stéphane, Suzie, Nancy and Marc-André and their partners; ten grandchildren; his brother, André (Danielle) and his sister, Agnès. Many in-laws and cousins, relatives and friends. Homage was paid on 17 and 24 August 2024 at the Matawinie-Montcalm Funeral Cooperative at Sainte-Julienne, Quebec. *His mother, Marguerite was a KFA board member from 1997 to 2001 who took part in the Return to the Sources trip to Brittany in July 2000.

BLAIS-KÉROACK, RITA (1933-2024)

At Marieville, (Quebec) on 29 October 2024, at the age of 91, died Rita Blais, from Saint-Alexandre, spouse of Gérald Kéroack (**GFK 00145**), the daughter of Alyre Blais and Juliette Benoit. Besides her husband, she leaves her children: Jean-Pierre (Johanne Paquette), Michel (Thérèse Therrien), Robert (Julie Lareau), Normand, Diane (André Chartier) and the late Sylvain. On 24 November a ceremony was held at the Upper-Richelieu Funeral Home in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec.

CARON, MARCEL (1930-2024)

Marcel Caron died in Sturgeon Falls on September 14, 2024, at the age of 94. He was the son of Anthime and Marie-Laure (née Savard). He leaves his **beloved wife, Gertrude Kirouac** (**GFK 02151**), and his four children Claude, Suzanne, René, Yvon. A celebration in his memory was held and he is buried in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Sturgeon Falls.

GAREAU-KIROUAC, GRACIELLE (1955-2024)

At Pointe-Calumet, Quebec, on 16 July 2024, aged 69, died Gracielle Gareau, wife of Claude Kirouac (**GFK 01606**). Besides her husband, she leaves to mourn her children Eugénie (Benoît), Steve and Richard (Stéphanie); her grandchildren: Marie-Eve, Marc-André and Sabrina. As per her wishes, there was a private ceremony.

GUÉRETTE, DANIEL (1957-2024)

Daniel Guérette died at 67, at the Regional Hospital Chaleur in Bathurst, NB, on 12 October 2024. Born in Bathurst in 1957, the son of the late Jeannette Kirouac (daughter of Alphonse Kirouac, **GFK 01586**) and the late Armand Guérette. He leaves to mourn one daughter, Maggie Guérette (Alex Roussel) from Rivière-Verte. Three grandchildren: Olivier, Maicy and Peyton. Thirteen brothers and sisters: Raymond (the late Carmella), Roger (Émerise), Lucille Desrosiers (Renald), Léandre (Lorraine), Gisèle Godin (the late Clifford), Claudine Dallaire (Cyrille), Annette Frenette (Martin), Claude (Nancy), Rose-Marie Morais (Ronnie), Linda Guérette (Raymond Hachey), Nicole Frenette, Murielle Guérette (Gilles Mallet) and Michel (Solange). Besides his parents, he is now reunited with his siblings: Fernand, Jean-Paul, Mélita, Claire and Denise. Funeral Mass was on 21 October 2024 at Sainte-Thérèse-d'Avila Church in Roberval (New Brunswick).

HANNAH, MICHEL (1946-2024)

At Maison Marie-Pagé at Victoriaville, on 24 October 2024, aged 77, died Michel Hannah, husband of Lorraine Chabot. He was the son of the late Edgar Hannah and the late Thérèse Kirouac (**GFK 00961**). Besides his wife, he leaves to mourn his children: Dany (Valérie Rivard), Nathalie and Sophie (Isabeau Carignan); his grandchildren: Pierre-Luc

Hannah (Catherine Hébert), Simon Carignan and Aelia Carignan; his god-daughter Nancy and her daughters. He was the brother of the late Lise, the late Claudette, Claude, Nicole (Daniel Tessier), the late Francine, Doris and Louiselle. He also leaves his sisters-in-law and one brother-in-law from the Chabot family: Claudette and Francine (Onil Marcoux). A ceremony was celebrated on 9 November at the Grégoire & Desrochers Funeral Home at Warwick.

KIROUAC-CARON, GERTRUDE (1931-2024)

On October 14, 2024, Gertrude Kirouac-Caron (**GFK 02151**) joined her husband Marcel Caron. She is survived by her four children Claude, Suzanne, René, Yvon. She was born in Taschereau, Abitibi, Quebec, on October 3, 1931, the daughter of Louis Kirouac and Céline Poirier.

KEROACK-JOLY, SIMONE (1930-2024)

On the 1st of July 2024, Simone Keroack-Joly (**GFK 01236**) died at home at the age of 94. Simone was born in St. Boniface, Manitoba, and moved to Edmonton as a toddler. She was the 7th of 14 children and grew up in the Franco-Albertan community of Edmonton, centered around the parish of St. Joachim. In 1952, she married Charles-Emile (Chuck) Joly. They raised their family in Edmonton and celebrated 71 years of marriage before Chuck died in September 2023. They had six children: Robert Joly (Ruth), Colette Joly-Calvert (Kirk), Greg Joly, Louise Joly, Michelle Amyotte (Ron) and Margo Joly-Buehrer (Todd); fifteen grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. She also leaves a sister, Margo Deschenes, the last of her sibling. Simone was predeceased by her husband Chuck; her daughter, Louise; her parents, Albert and Emma Keroack; twelve siblings: Therese, Jeanne, Albert, Aime, Annette, Antoine,

Paul, Cecile, Richard, Marie, Joseph and Bernard. A Memorial Service was held on 23 August 2024 at Connelly-McKinley Funeral Home in St. Albert, Alberta, Canada.

**KEROUAC, DONALD L.
(1949-2024)**

Donald L. Kerouac, 74, of Kankakee, passed away on 3 August 2024, at home. He was born 26 October 1949, in Kankakee, the son of Leslie (Viateur K, Philip K. (**GFK 02732**) and Alice (Book) Kerouac. Donald married Billie Kern in 1994, at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Kankakee. Surviving are his wife, Billie Kerouac; two daughters, Jennifer Kerouac (Scott Steinhart) and Julie (Jason) Williams; one son, David Kerouac and fiancée, Amada Roth; one stepdaughter, Sheri (Stuart) Clifford; one brother, Dennis (Sharon) Kerouac; and eight grandchildren. Preceding him in death were his parents; and one sister, Judith Kerouac.

**KIROUAC, CARMEN
(1947-2024)**

At the long-term care section of Hôtel-Dieu at Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, on 13 August 2024, aged 76, died Carmen Kirouac. She was the daughter of Florentin Kirouac (**GFK 02727**) and Jeanne Pelletier. She leaves to mourn her two sons: Michaël and Pascal Pelletier (Émilie Gosselin) and a grandson, Samuel; as well as her siblings: Louiselle (Yves Laurion), Gisèle, Jacques and Marielle; other relatives and friends. A ceremony took place on 1st September 2024 in the Chapel of Mausolée Lalime and the urn was put in the Lalime Columbarium at Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada.

**KIROUAC, SIMONE
(1920-2024)**

At Quebec, on 29 October 2024, one month short of her 104 birthday, Simone Kirouac (**GFK 00539**), widow of Laurent Masson and mother of the late Denise Masson. Born in Quebec City, she was the daughter of Léontine Marois and Émile Kirouac. She leaves to mourn her son: Pierre Masson (Line Boucher); two

granddaughters: Marie-Sophie Masson and Amélie Masson (François Beaulieu) and four great-grandchildren: Jeanne, Émil, Juliette and Léonie. She is now reunited with her siblings: Roland (Mariette Pouliot), Raymond (Jeannette Robitaille-Côté), Gabriel (Jeannine Simard), Jean-Marie (Aline Montminy), Henri (Yvette Lapointe) and Thérèse; also with her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Jean-Paul Masson (Colette Bourdeau), Gilberte Masson (Paul Bourdeau), Lucille Masson (Henri Dionne-Major) and Marcel Masson (Françoise Dion. A ceremony was held on 24 November at the Funeral Parlour followed by interment at Notre-Dame-de-Belmont Cemetery, in Quebec City.

**Lajoie, René
(1951-2024)**

René Lajoie, aged 73, died on 23 August 2024. He was the son of the late Lucien Lajoie and the late Simone Kirouac (daughter of Maxime Kirouac [**GFK 02193**] and Eugénie Kirouac [**GFK 02136**]). He leaves to mourn his two daughters: Nathalie (Jérôme) and Nancy (Carl), his grandchildren: Nathan, Noélie, Jade, Julia and Zeld; his brother Claude; his friend, Hélène. He was predeceased by his brothers: Jean-Pierre, André and François. A special celebration took place on 22 September 2024 at the Outaouais Funeral Cooperative at Gatineau, Quebec, Canada.

**LAMBERT, MARIE-MARGUERITE
(1941-2024)**

Marie-Marguerite died at home unexpectedly on 3 September 2024 at 83. Predeceased by her husband Huges Helix. Loving mother of Maurice (Tina) Kirouac and Daniel (Shannon) Kirouac. Cherished grandmother of Kaylee, Félix and Taylor. She is survived by the father of her children Ronald Kirouac (**GFK 00297**). Dear sister of Rita Lauzon (Larry) and her brother-in-law Guy Baillargeon. She is survived by many nieces and nephews. Also predeceased by her parents Arthur and Felixina Lambert and her siblings Rose Jalbert, Alberte Roy, Jeannine

Baillargeon, Yvonne Levasseur and Claude Lambert. Cremation has taken place. A memorial service was held on 7 September 2024 at the Miron-Wilson Funeral Home Chapel, in Timmins, Ontario, Canada.

**MORIN, AIME L. JUNIOR
(1931-2024)**

Aime L. Morin Jr., 92, died on 30 August 2024. He was the husband of late Constance (Kirouac) Morin (daughter of **GFK 02107**), who died in 2020. He was born in Lewiston on 13 November 1931, a son to the late Aime L. & Corinne (Chabot) Morin Sr. He is survived by his two children Theresa A. (Eugene Roux) and Ronald M. (Melissa) Morin; four grandchildren Kim, Tianna, Mya and James and a great-granddaughter Madison. A memorial service with military honors was held on 2 October 2024 at Pinette, Dillingham & Lynch Funeral Home, Lewiston, Maine.

**SWEENEY, DEBBIE
(1974-2024)**

Debbie Sweeney died at Joliette, Quebec, on 4 September 2024. She was born on 29 June 1974 ... She leaves to mourn her spouse, Patrick Proulx, and her children: Calvin, Anna and Nathan, her mother, Nicole Kirouac (daughter of Guy Kirouac **GFK 01375**), uncles, aunts, cousins and friends. A funeral ceremony presided by Father Rodney Clark took place at the Chapel of White & Son Funeral House at Rawdon (Quebec) on 19 October, followed by interment of ashes in the local cemetery.

**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 839

What are the names of the parents of Sharon Lee Cunion, spouse of Gerard Normand Kerouac, son of Alfred Kerouac and Rachel Soucy? The couple was married on 19 July 1981 at Manchester, New Hampshire.

Question 840

What are the names of the parents of Joao Goncalves spouse of Audrey Kerouac, daughter of Roger Kerouac and Leona Murphy? Audrey was born in Nashua, New Hampshire.

Question 841

What are the names of the parents of Donald Noël spouse of Martha Kerouac, daughter of Roger Kerouac and Leona Murphy? The couple was married in 1975 and divorced in 1986.

Question 842

What are the names of the parents of Stephan Kelley spouse of Ann Kerouac, daughter of Roger Kerouac and Leona Murphy?

Question 843

What are the names of the parents of Lydia Hines first spouse of Michael Kerouac, son of Roger Kerouac and Leona Murphy? The couple was married in 1975 and divorced in 1979.

Question 844

What are the names of the parents

of Michel Champagne, spouse of Isabelle Kirouac, daughter of Benoît Kirouac and Réjeanne Mailhot?

Question 845

What are the names of the parents of Edna Aubut, spouse of Michael Kirouac, son of Albert Kirouac and Gertrude Edwards? The couple was married on 16 June 1956 at Montréal.

Question 846

What are the names of the parents of Elizabeth Scrob, spouse of Clément Kirouac, son of Amédée Kirouac and Gertrude Roy? The couple was married on 7 November 1970 at Regina, Saskatchewan.

Question 847

What are the names of the parents of Donald Dumont, spouse of Jocelyne Kirouac, daughter of Albert Kirouac and Irène Auger?

Question 848

What are the names of the parents of Aimé Keroack (1908-1946), husband of Henriette Pelletier? What are the names of the parents of Henriette Pelletier? The couple was married on 12 November 1940 at Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Question 849

What are the names of the parents of Michel Arnau, spouse of Madeleine Keroack, daughter of Albert Keroack and Alma Paxton? The couple was married on 6 August 1977; where exactly was the ceremony held?

Question 850

What are the names of the parents of Alma Paxton, spouse of Albert Keroack, son of Albert Keroack and Emma Baril? The couple was married on 18 January 1947 in Manitoba; where exactly was the ceremony held?

Question 851

What are the names of the parents of Marion Ruth Burton, second wife of Albert Keroack, son of Albert Keroack and Emma Baril? The couple was married in August 1987 at Edmonton, Alberta; also what is the exact date of the wedding and where exactly was the ceremony held?

Question 852

What are the names of the parents of Steve Panek, spouse of Maureen Keroack, daughter of Albert Keroack and Emma Paxton? The couple was married on 10 May 1969.

Question 853

What are the names of the parents of Avila Prénovault, husband of Eugénie Keroack, daughter of Maximilien-Aimé Keroack and Malvina Gauthier? The couple was married on 27 May 1907 at Saint-Boniface, Manitoba?

Question 854

What are the names of the parents of Diane Dufour, first spouse of Simon Kirouac, son of Roger Kirouac and Simone Houde? The couple was married on 26 December 1970 at Manseau, Quebec?

Question 855

What are the names of the parents of Helen Gustafson, spouse of Albert Kirouac, son of Didace Kirouac and Hortense Rhéault? What is the exact date of the wedding and where exactly did it take place in the USA?



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

The Editor

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025

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