



A VIOLETTE HISTORY IS PUBLISHED

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A Violette History



The story of how Francois Violet and his family pioneered first on the Hammond River in lower New Brunswick then came to the Upper St John River Valley and pioneered again as the first settlers of what became Van Buren, Maine, and St Leonard, New Brunswick

David A. Violette, Guy F. Dubay, and Rod Violette

Published by the Violette Family Association

The long-awaited book on the history of the Violette family has been published and is available at Amazon.com. Just do a search for the title. The list price is \$38, but Amazon often sells it at a discount from that.

What a great Christmas present for members of your family!

In 270 pages in 15 chapters Rod, Guy, and Dave tell the story of François Violet/Violette from the time of his grandparents through the time of his children, from about 1716 through 1845-8. The story line starts in France with the birth of Charles in Villejésus and describes the part of France from where our family comes. Charles married Marie Doux in Saintes in 1741 and Helie was born July 22, 1743 and François on December 16, 1744. Marie had an older son named Alexis from a previous marriage; he was born in 1733.

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VFA COAT-OF-ARMS

Pictured on the cover of *A Violette History* is the new Violette Family Association coat-of-arms, designed by Nancy Nolette (VFA#1702) and rendered by Mary Ellen Szper. You can download the image file at our web site: www.VioletteFamily.org. Go to the Organization page from the menu.

"I can't recommend this book highly enough. If you are a member of the Violette family, you will want this book. The historical information alone is a treasure. I have not enjoyed a book this much in a long, long time. "

Review of A Violette History by MarieNY

"well presented history of the Violette family!! "

Review of A Violette History by Denise Durand

NEXT REUNION LOCATION

The location for the next Reunion, in 2017, has not been chosen yet. If you are interested in hosting it in your area please contact Dave Violette, President. Don't think you will have to do it all—the Association provides plenty of help and organizing skills! A location in Connecticut or Massachusetts is preferred.

VIOLETTE FAMILY REUNION 2014

Van Buren ME was a great place to hold the Violette Family Reunion 2014! Steeped in the history of the Violette family, and the place pioneered by our ancestors François and Marie Luce Violet, and also in the setting for the World Acadian Congress, this location gave members who wished to a chance to explore their Violette and Acadian roots.

We had a total of 76 attendees for the event that started on Friday, August 8th, and ended on Sunday, August 10th. Those numbers were lower than some previous Reunions, but this one was still a financial success and will provide funds to help the Association continue operating over the next three years.

Our program on Friday evening included a short presentation by the authors of the recently-published *A Violette History*. Guy Dubay (VFA#892), Rod Violette (VFA#12), and Dave Violette (VFA#621) introduced the book to those attending and told some of their personal

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NEW OFFICERS

Our Association's officers for the next three years are:

President—David A. Violette (VFA#621) will continue as President for a second term.

Vice President—Christine Lippincott (VFA#1058) returns as Vice President after a period off the board.

Secretary—Rod Violette (VFA#12) will continue as Secretary for another term. He has been Secretary since 2002.

Treasurer—Louiselle Violette (VFA#125) return as Treasurer after a period off the board.

The Executive Committee consists of the elected officers plus the immediate past officers plus two appointed positions. The current Executive Committee consists of:

WebMaster—David A. Violette (VFA#621) will continue in this role. Dave has been WebMaster since he developed the Association's web site in 2001.

DNA/Heraldry—Nancy Nolette (VFA#1702) will continue in this role.

Past President—Paul Bunnell (VFA#292) is the most recent Past President.

Past Vice President—Paul L. Violette (VFA#1589) is the most recent Past Vice President.

Contact information for all of the above is available at our web site. Go to www.VioletteFamily.org and click the Organization, Officers button. That information is updated any time any of it changes.

REUNION 2017—WHERE AND WHEN? OR, SHOULD WE HAVE ONE?

No one attending Reunion 2014 offered to host Reunion 2017, so we are in a quandary about that event. In fact, the question we were left with at the end of Reunion 2014 was whether there would be a Reunion 2017 at all. Some even asked whether we should continue having reunions.

The Violette Family Association got started as the result of the very first Reunion organized by Rita Violette Lippé (VFA#1) in 1978. That was, after all, 36 years ago and times have changed since then. And, the whole idea of Violette ancestry was new at the time as well as being able to know that we had many, *many*, more "cousins" than we ever thought we had. Suddenly the idea of "being a Violette" meant a lot more.

So the idea of gathering once every three years was appealing, and members looked forward to those Reunions.

Our last two Reunions have been held in Van Buren ME, and we know that this is a long distance for many of our members to travel. Though we have 382 members from Maine most live further south in the state. But we have 204 members in Connecticut, 96 in Massachusetts, 67 in New Hampshire, 29 in New York, 7 in Rhode Island, and 8 in Vermont. We also have 112 in New Brunswick, 72 in Quebec, 18 in Nova Scotia, and 75 in Ontario. So a location in southern New Hampshire, in Massachusetts, or in Connecticut might make it easier and less expensive for members to attend. We will be contacting members in those states to determine the interest and to find a location. We should have an answer before August 2015.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Violette Cousins,

I was happy to participate in another wonderful Violette Family Reunion in Van Buren ME in August! We should all thank the team that made this Reunion a success: Anne Roy (VFA#2046), Georgie Martin (VFA#769), Dan Martin (VFA#770), and Harold and Lucille Violette (VFA#839 and #840) were the key feet-on-the-ground crew that planned the event, made the arrangements, did the setup, ran countless errands to be sure we had what we needed, and then cleaned up after. Many others helped before and during the Reunion to set up tables and decorations. Elaine Violette (VFA#1482) handled the raffle setup and process and Bob Lip-pincott (VFA#1059) was our photographer. Rod Violette (VFA#12) provided a booth where people could get genealogical questions answered, and John Violette (VFA#124) provided Violette Family clothing items for sale to members. Others contributed in various ways to make our 14th Reunion a success.

Though we were not able to set the date and place for a next Reunion, the officers will be working over the next few months to bring that into being. The gist of interest of those at this Reunion was that our next one should be in Connecticut or Massachusetts, and we will be contacting members in those states to get something firmed up before our next newsletter is published.

David A. Violette, VFA #621

VIOLETTE FAMILY REUNION 2014 (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 2)

stories about writing the book. Following that, Guy gave a talk about *Grist Mills in the Violette Family*. Our ancestor François Violet built and operated the first grist mill in the Upper St John River Valley, so this was important to our family. An example of a similar grist mill is on display at The Acadian Village in Van Buren.

Saturday's program included time during the day for members to explore the area so important to our family's history. The triennial Business Meeting was held at which officers for the next three years were elected and discussions about the Association and future Reunions were held.

On Saturday evening our new officers were introduced. Then Dave Violette gave a presentation describing how researching where François and Marie Luce lived and other aspects of the book *A Violette History* affected his life in his talk *Searching for François Violet*.

We had excellent meals catered by Steve and Cindy Doucette of Cater All. And DJ David Pelletier played excellent choices of music as a background to our meal and for dancing later.

Our raffle was a success, raising \$154 for the Association. Many thanks to all those who contributed items for the raffle, and thanks to those who made the raffle operate smoothly.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR REUNION 2014

INCOME

Preregistrations.....	\$4,617.49
Registrations at Reunion..	\$360.00
Meals at Reunion.....	\$399.00
Donations at Reunion.....	498.00
Genealogy donations.....	\$30.00
50/50 Raffle	\$240.00
Items Raffle.....	\$154.00
Clothing sales.....	\$345.00
CA exchange adjust	-\$73.46
TOTAL INCOME	\$6,170.03

EXPENSES

Hall rental	\$400.00
Catering for meals.....	\$1,348.20
Supplies, committee.....	\$109.09
Supplies and printing	\$758.75
Shipping	\$48.30
Entertainment	\$300.00
Clothing.....	\$452.60
50/50 payout.....	\$120.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,536.94

REUNION NET.....\$2,633.09

And, there is considerable stock left over for future Reunions.



Dave had a birthday at Reunion 2014

A VIOLETTE HISTORY IS PUBLISHED (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 1)

From Saintes, Charles moved his young family to Rochefort where a daughter, Marie, was born in January 1747; she died that same October, though.

The book describes those places in France and also describes what was happening in that part of the world at that time, and how those events might have shaped the lives of Charles and his young family.

One major event happened in 1748, when the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle gave Cape Breton and Louisbourg back to the French. That part of North America had been fought over between the British and the French for many years. Being so close to the Gulf of St Lawrence made this port and island critical to maintaining commercial and other North Atlantic interests of both nations. Fortress Louisbourg had been built by the French for the defense of the area and the British had largely demolished the fortifications during their most recent occupation. France's King Louis XV determined to rebuild the fortress and needed many skilled workers to do so. Charles was an experienced roofer and moved his family to Cape Breton Island to work there.

The tides of history swung back the other way, and in 1758 the French lost control of Louisbourg again. Charles had been widowed and had remarried, and moved his new family back to France when the French moved out, but 14-year-old François stayed behind.

We next find François married to Marie Luce Thibodeau and located in southern New Brunswick in 1770 on lands they pioneered. We don't know where François was and what he did in the twelve-year period between 1758 and 1770, nor do we know where and how he met Marie Luce. But they lived on their lands along the Hammond River in southern New Brunswick until around 1790, raising twelve children. In the book you will see photos of the lands on which they lived.

But global politics took another turn in 1776 when the United States of America declared independence from Great Britain. The war that ensued caused many loyal to the British crown to leave those hostile lands and seek a better place to live, and many ended up in the same area of New Brunswick where François, Marie Luce, and others of her family lived. Feeling pushed out and outnumbered, that group of French-speaking people sought lands further away and moved to and pioneered lands on the Upper St John River. Those land grants eventually became Van Buren ME and St Leonard NB, and that is where François lived out his life, dying in 1824.

You will learn of the death of Marie Luce and the subsequent marriages of François, and you will learn of the 23 children and 150+ grandchildren he had. You will see photos of places they lived and maps showing their lands and how they fit in with overall development as those areas grew.

The book tells the fascinating tale of our family within the tapestry of the regions and times in which they lived. You will get fascinating insights into how world and local histories affected our early family, as well as descriptions and photos of the places with which our family was associated.

You will also read of the adventures of a group of Violettes who sought their roots and ancestry on a trip to France in 1982, where they got to

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RITA'S BOOK AUCTIONED

More copies of the famous *Descendants of Francois Violet* book by Rita Violette Lippé were found in the libraries of Alderic O. "Dick" and Alice Bartlett Violette (VFA #100 and 101) and donated to the Violette Family Association. They were auctioned off at Reunion 2014. The book has been out of print for several years and is eagerly sought by Association members.

"This is an amazing piece of work. Not just a dry genealogy with a bunch of "begats". There are copies of letters, stories, maps, pictures of relevant locations. A true treasure for anyone with a Violette in their family tree or a student of history. Nice work!"

Review of A Violette History by a reader in Austin TX

"I was very pleased with the book. It has given me a much broader picture of my family history and am very grateful for everyone who took their time to research and put this together. This is a book that will be passed on from generation to generation."

Review of A Violette History by Nancy Schmidt



Association Board Meeting at Reunion 2014

A VIOLETTE HISTORY IS PUBLISHED (CONTINUED)

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visit the places of François' birth and youth.

There have been many stories developed over the years about François and his early years. The authors try to clear the air on how some of those legends might have come into being and why several of them are wrong in at least some accounts.

These authors are not the first to tell a history of our Violette family. Both Rita Violette Lippé and Maurice Violette wrote earlier histories. Rita's was contained in her book *Descendants of François Violet*, published in 1984, and now out of print. Maurice published a booklet (*The Violette Family - A History*) in 1990 that told of his research at Fortress Louisbourg and gave further insights into our family's history. Excerpts from Rita's book and the entirety of Maurice's are contained in this newest book, and the current authors have inserted comments to update the information available to Rita and Maurice at the time they were writing.

A Violette History is sure to be a treasure handed down within families, for it tells the story of our ancestors and how our family got established in North America.

"A most welcome glimpse of the (story of) Francois Violette! Could not be more proud of (where) the family started and how it began... A must read!! I feel very lucky to be connected to a family that overcame so much...."
 Review of *A Violette History* by Jennifer Ehlers

"A wonderfully prepared history of the Violette family"
 Review of *A Violette History* by Jessica Pelkey



**Violette Family Reunion
 Van Buren, Maine
 August 8-10, 2014**

Attendees at Violette Family Reunion 2014

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



The authors of *A Violette History*: Rod Violette (VFA#12), Guy Dubay (VFA#892), and Dave Violette (VFA#621).

The authors are all descendants of François Violet and Marie-Luce Thibodeau, the progenitors of many of the readers of this book, and thus are related in some distant way. The authors come from far different backgrounds and life experiences, but were brought together because of their interest in the genealogy and history of their family and a desire to pass along to others the fascinating story of this pioneer family.

David A. Violette was born in Concord NH in August 1939 and lived in that state until 1959. He is the son of Alderic Violette and Alice Bartlett, à Cyr Regis Violette and Adeline Soucie, à Bruno Violette and Elodie Cyr, à Laurent Violette and Elise Cyr, à Charles Violet and Theotiste Tardif, à François Violet and Marie-Luce Thibodeau. He received a degree in Civil Engineering from The University of Connecticut and practiced as a Professional Civil Engineer throughout his career, during which he was the prime author of many studies and other technical documents, and was an early adopter of the use of computers and software in the production of documents of many types. He was also an early web developer, starting in 1993. He first converted the Violette Family Association membership records from file cards to a computer database around 1987 and served as Secretary of the Association from 1990 through 1996. He developed the Association's web site in 2001 and continues as Webmaster. He also served as President from 2011-14. Dave brings a love of history and a focus on details, structure, and organization to this project. He served as synthesizer, editor, researcher, and writer and produced the content documents from material and ideas supplied by Rod and Guy. Dave sees himself as a story teller. Dave and his wife Elaine live full-time in a 40-foot motorhome and explore the US and Canada. He writes a daily blog about their travels, found at

www.Violette.com. He can be reached by email at David@Violette.com.

"I agreed to participate in this project because I knew my skills would help Rod and Guy get the story across that they wanted to tell, and because I want to share with others the fascinating story of François and Marie Luce Violet, my great-great-great-great grandparents. I love to tell their story. It has been a challenging project."

Guy F. Dubay was born in Van Buren ME in December 1942 and has lived in Van Buren and Madawaska ME all his life. He is the son of Edward G. Dubay and Eveline Violette, à Abel Violette and Marcelline Deschenes, à Jean Benoni (Belonie) Violette and Suzanne Theriault, à François Violet and Marguerite Fournier, à François Violet and Marie-Luce Thibodeau. Guy was yet a child when he first heard his Uncle John Violette speak of "Les Premiers Temps" (The Pioneer Days) and describe his own father in the generational lineage format given above. He graduated from Van Buren Boys' High School, taught by the Marist Fathers and lay teachers and then enrolled in Fort Kent Normal School., which in 1964 became Fort Kent State Teachers' College and later the University of Maine and Fort Kent, one of five campuses of the University of Maine System.

Guy went on to teach in the public schools of Madawaska until 1971, when he became the Principal of Evangeline and St Thomas Schools in that system. Summers not spent at the University of Maine were spent researching family and local history at the Northern Aroostook Registry of Deeds. Since his paternal grandfather had been an attorney, Guy describes that part of his research as "Following up on my Grandfather's paper trail." This research took him not only through family history, but also the history of mills and their development in the St John Valley. In September 1973 he published an historical feature on the Violette Grist Mill.

Guy is also the author of several genealogical and historical works; the quickest access to those title is by doing a search at URSUS, the University of Maine Systems Library (ursus.maine.edu) and doing a search for author "Dubay, Guy F."

Guy summarizes his life course this way: "Education was my profession, but local and family history became my avocation". Guy married Ernestine Soucy, whose mother was Winifred Violette Soucy, à Joseph Violette and Catherine Cyr, à Frederick Violette and Suzanne Parent, à Jean Benoni (Belonie) Violette and Suzanne Theriault, à François Violet and Marguerite Fournier, à François Violet and Marie-Luce Thibodeau. They have two adult children and continue

ABOUT THE AUTHORS (CONTINUED)

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to live in Madawaska. He can be reached by email at info@clubfrançais.org.

Rodrigue (Rod) R Violette was born in St Leonard NB in May 1932. He is the son of Edgar Violette and Ida Marie Doucet, à Come Violette and Flavie Cyr, à François Violette and Sarah Mercure, à Theodore Violette and Louise Parent, à Charles Violet and Theodiste Tardif, à François Violet and Marie-Luce Thibodeau. He graduated from St. Thomas University in Chatham, NB in 1955. He was a fighter pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1955 to 1965. He left the Air Force and became an airline pilot with United Airlines until retirement in 1994. He became interested in genealogy through the efforts of his father. When Rita Violette Lippé was doing her initial genealogical research and reaching out to Violettes, Rod used his travels as an airline pilot to find Violettes listed in telephone directories all over the country. He would write to them and forwarded the information he received to Rita.

Rod was the one who came up with the idea for this book, and helped form the structure for this project. He contributed many historical topics to the chapters, but was most valuable in providing the genealogical information used in the book.

Rod has been a member of the Violette Family Association since its inception in 1978, holds membership number 12, and has been on the Board since 2002 when he was elected Secretary, and continued the work of Rita Violette Lippé as Genealogist.

Genealogy evolved from a hobby to an avocation for Rod. He spends many hours each week providing family information to members and logging the information he gets in return. He is constantly searching for new information in Ancestry.com, census reports and numerous genealogical dictionaries. And in the course of his genealogical work he has amassed a library of genealogical references more than twelve feet long.

Rod and his wife, Helene, live in Lincoln CA. Rod can be reached by email at rviolette@att.net.

"Genealogy is not a burden, but a labor of love"

KEEP YOUR INFO UP-TO-DATE

We hate when we lose track of any member! Most often it is because the member has changed address or email and our emails or newsletters get returned. Please let us know when you move or change email addresses! Contact Secretary@VioletteFamily.org or President@VioletteFamily.org

MISSING MEMBERS

The list below shows some of the members with which we have lost contact. We have no current address, phone number, or email address with which to contact them. Please contact the President, Vice President, or Secretary if you can help with information about any of them.

VFA#	Name	City	St
30	Joy E McCabe	Woburn	MA
56	Marthe Pelissier	Somerset	MA
74	Mike Violette	Portland	ME
126	Walter Danner	Lawrence	MA
158	Louis J Violette	Ottawa	ON
248	William A Violette Sr	Plainville	CT
286	Edmond Violette	Oakland	ME
340	Annette Daigle	Skowhegan	ME
347	Sandra Castle	Naples	FL
441	Alexandrine Gallant	Skowhegan	ME
516	Viola Pelletier	Mars Hill	ME
565	James M Violette	Lavallette	NJ
691	William R Morrow	Tampa	FL
693	Arthur Poore	Boothbay	ME
841	Sylvio R Violette	Van Buren	ME
906	Karen A Berrelli	South Windsor	CT
940	Norman A Violette	Port Richey	FL
952	Donna L Roix	Navarre	FL
968	Roberta Adair	Scarborough	ME
983	Peter Violette	Van Buren	ME
1071	Doris St Jacques	MONTREAL	QC
1124	Rhonda Brown	San Rafael	CA
1191	Constance Gregoire	Augusta	ME
1234	Cynthia Sweet	Bristol	CT
1271	Patrice Taylor	Miami	FL
1381	Corinne Thivierge	Van Buren	ME
1493	Steven Violette	Waterbury	CT
1644	Monica Hamel	Groton	CT
1659	Charles K Powers Jr	Beverly	MA
1752	Edmund J Nolette	Delray Beach	FL
1798	Michael R Violette	Felicity	OH
1842	Violette C Lacaille	PIERREFONDS	QC
1851	Steven H Violette	Gilmanton	NH
1902	Delmer Violette	Rocky Hill	CT
2008	Craig L Violette	Augusta	ME
2021	Bruce P Roy	Brunswick	ME
2066	Georgette G Lantagne	Lowell	MA
2143	Terry G Bollea	Chatsworth	CA
2149	Chantelle H Violette	Lynn	MA
2170	Pat Fillingham	Henderson Harbor	NY
2240	Patrick L Berube	Springfield	MO
2355	Anne McCreary	Kingston	ON
2450	Derik Violette	Orleans	ON
2559	Hope M Bowden	Eustis	FL
2691	Alison Violette	Portland	ME
2741	Candy Jean Cleary	Milford	ME



Scenes at and around Reunion 2014. In the Acadian spirit. Tables decorated. Georgie and Holly selling raffle tickets. Folks socializing. Stone honoring François' grist mill location., set by the Violette Family Association in 1983. The Violette House, on Violette St in Van Buren.



DECEASED MEMBERS

The following members have died between Reunion 2011 and Reunion 2014. They were honored in memory at Reunion 2014 with their names displayed and attention drawn to the display.

VFA#	First	Middle	Maiden	Last	Born	Died	City	State
103	Marlene		Waterhouse	Violette	03/13/37	12/06/13	Lewiston	ME
100	Alderic	Onil		Violette	02/04/16	09/21/13	Warner	NH
100	Alice	Elizabeth	Bartlett	Violette	02/03/17	07/15/13	Warner	NH
511	Michael	Andrew		Violette	01/18/47	07/02/13	Vernon Rockville	CT
489	Gloria		Poulin	Violette	09/05/25	06/23/13	Biddeford	ME
929	Carmen	Thelma	Dubay	Violette	01/31/33	04/19/13	Van Buren	ME
872	Joseph	O		Violette	07/08/23	03/18/13	Bangor	ME
673	James	Wilfred		Violette	07/18/39	03/12/13	Morro Bay	CA
555	James	P.		Violette	11/19/31	01/18/13	Waterville	ME
1701	Mary	Theresa	Michaud	Curran	08/08/21	12/29/12	Seal Beach	CA
45	Cecile		Michaud	Violette	08/24/23	12/24/12	Georgetown	IN
716	John	M.		Violette	01/27/30	12/14/12	Saco	ME
2847	Michael	C		Violette	07/14/56	10/10/12	Van Buren	ME
1215	George			Lamontagne		09/08/12	Bristol	CT
1092	Carmen		Violette	Couturier	07/16/22	08/26/12	Cumberland Foreside	ME
484	Nancy	Anne	Violette	Steele	11/04/53	07/19/12	Auburn	ME
1106	Janice		Violette	Crowley	12/13/36	03/07/12	Leonardtown	MD
1554	Marcel	Alfred		Violette	07/04/60	02/17/12	Mississauga	ON
374	Lucienne		Violette	Martin	10/15/27	01/25/12	Chateauguay	QC
1872	Joseph	C		Violette	06/20/35	11/10/11	Waterboro	ME
70	Florence		Violette	Labbe	07/27/26	10/27/11	Sidney	ME
949	Phyllis		Bouchard	LaJoie		10/02/11	Van Buren	ME
1240	Albert			Violette	09/24/29	09/10/11	Woonsocket	RI
2383	Eric	Napoleon		Smith	08/15/66	08/18/11	Milford	NH
358	Duward	Bruce		Violette	05/23/19	08/09/11	Spring Hill	FL