

# Violette Family Association

We Are One! [www.VioletteFamily.org](http://www.VioletteFamily.org) [www.Facebook.com/VioletteFamilyAssociation](http://www.Facebook.com/VioletteFamilyAssociation)



Newsletter

February 2016

## REUNION 2017: WHERE?????

Unlike past Reunions, at Reunion 2014 we had no volunteers to host Reunion 2017 so we cannot tell you where (or if) it will be held. Several members suggested that we hold the next Reunion in southern New England—in Connecticut or Massachusetts. This would make sense, since a location there would be closer to many members, thus reducing the distance and cost of travel for those attending.

Hosting a Reunion takes some preliminary planning, and it is not too soon to begin that process. Selecting and locking down a place to hold a Reunion needs to be done at least a year in advance. So the Board of Directors urges folks in Massachusetts and Connecticut to get together and offer to host Reunion 2017 and find a place in which to hold it. There is plenty of help available for planning and putting on a Reunion, but we need someone in the Reunion area to handle preliminary details so we know where we are going.

This newsletter provides answers to many questions a potential Host Committee might ask. Won't YOU consider doing that now?

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Violette Family,

It is time for planning for Reunion 2017, if we are to have one. I apologize for waiting this long to send this newsletter. No one at Reunion 2014 offered to host Reunion 2017, so we must take the approach of requesting this in our newsletter.

Regardless where you live, please tell us your preferred location for Reunion 2017. You can do this by clipping the item at the bottom of page 7/8 in this newsletter, filling out your preference, and mailing it as instructed there. But you can do it more easily by going to our web site—[VioletteFamily.org](http://VioletteFamily.org)—and doing the survey by clicking on the button on the right side of the welcome page. Either way, we want to know by March 15, 2016.

The officers of the Violette Family Association hope that someone will pick up this task and volunteer to become part of a Host Committee. We don't want to lose our momentum of triennial Reunions, and besides, we all enjoy seeing our "cousins" at our Reunions!

David A. Violette, VFA #621, President

"We Are One"

**Please be generous with your donations! Send it to our Treasurer or click on the secure PayPal link at our web site.**

**Since we have no dues we depend on donations and what is left from Reunions to cover operating costs.**

## NEXT REUNION LOCATION

**A location for Reunion 2017 has not been selected. Where do you want it to be held? See survey online or on page 6.**

**PAST REUNIONS**

We have had fourteen Reunions in our 38-year history. The locations and dates for those past Reunions are shown in the table below. For planning purposes, note that we have traditionally held Reunions in late July or early August to better accommodate families with children as well as traditional summer vacation times.

Location	Start	End
Methuen, Massachusetts USA	7/29/78	7/31/78
Augusta, Maine USA	7/29/79	
Van Buren, Maine USA	7/31/81	
Windsor, Connecticut USA	7/27/84	
Portland, Maine USA	7/31/87	
Grand Falls, New Brunswick CAN	7/27/90	
Lewiston, Maine USA	7/30/93	
Shelburne Falls, New Hampshire USA	7/26/96	7/28/96
Westford, Massachusetts USA	7/31/99	8/2/99
Edmundston, New Brunswick CAN	8/9/02	8/11/02
Gorham, New Hampshire USA	7/22/05	7/24/05
Windsor Locks, Connecticut USA	8/08/08	8/10/08
Van Buren, Maine USA	8/05/11	8/07/11
Van Buren, Maine USA	8/08/14	8/10/14
???	Aug 2017??	Aug 2017??

**WHAT DOES A REUNION REQUIRE IN ADVANCE?**

Important factors to provide for in planning a Violette Family Reunion:

- A group of local members willing to help in planning and carrying out the Reunion. Typically this consists of 3-6 members.
- A meeting hall or place that can accommodate from 200 to 300 people.
- Lodging at the Reunion place or close nearby for those numbers.
- Reunion meals: Friday supper, Saturday lunch (possibly) and supper, and Sunday breakfast. If the meeting venue (e.g.: hotel) cannot provide the Host Committee might use a caterer.
- Planning for entertainment and program content.

**IMPORTANCE OF EARLY PLANNING**

Some members must plan their vacation time as much as a year in advance, so it is important that we set the dates for our Reunions at least that far ahead. Therefore we request that members considering hosting a Reunion act soon so we can lock down a date and give members advance notice.

**THE HOST COMMITTEE**

The Host Committee is a local group of members planning a Reunion.

**REUNION PLANNING GUIDELINES**

Those who have put on Reunions in the past have put together a Reunion Planning Guidelines (Draft) document to help those considering hosting a Reunion to learn what is involved. This is available at our web site [VioletteFamily.org](http://VioletteFamily.org), or by request from the President. At the web site, go to Reunions, then Planning Document, and download the PDF file.

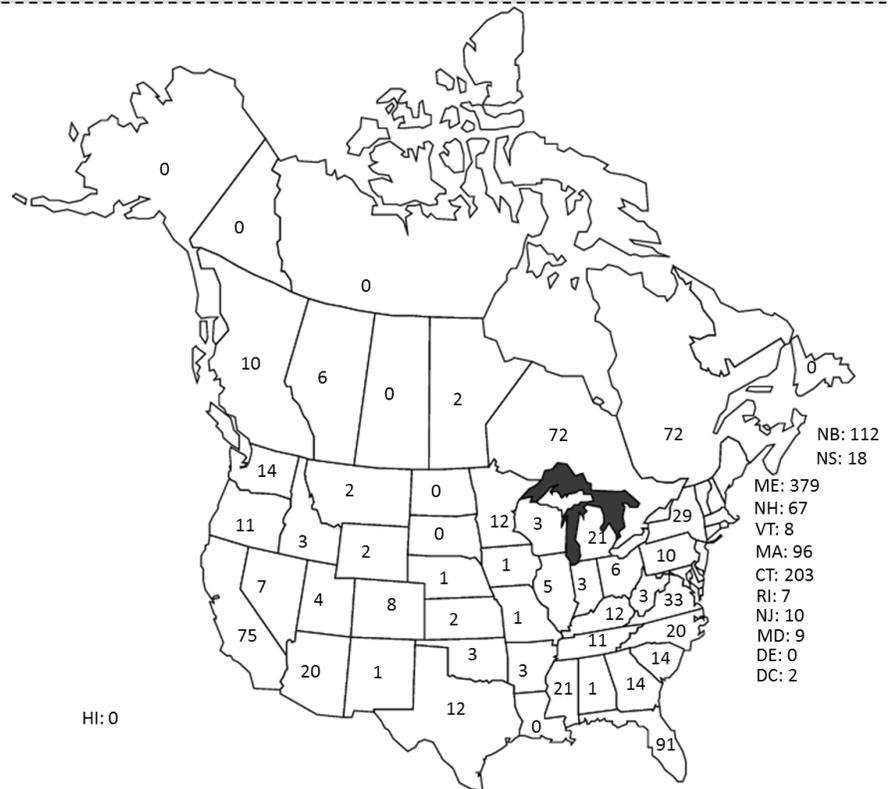
**IMPORTANT REUNION SUPPORT**

The Violette Family Association Board members and several others have had experience in planning and carrying out Reunions, and are very happy to help the local committee. This is especially valuable during the setup phase and during the Reunion itself, so the Host Committee does not have to do it all themselves!

Help in mailing lists, newsletters, web site content, registration forms and data, and many more aspects is provided by Association officers in support of the Host Committee.

## WHERE DO WE LIVE?

The map below shows where Violette Family Association members live in North America, by state and province. The majority of our members are in the northeastern part of North America. Maine has the largest number at 379—about as many as NH, VT, MA, CT, and RI combined. But Massachusetts and Connecticut together have over 300 members. This is why many people would like to have Reunion 2017 in one of those two states. The member numbers represent a single member or a member-spouse/partner pair. Our records have undeliverable addresses for 110 member units. The total of those shown on the map is 1804 member units.



## REUNION MEALS

The Host Committee is responsible for selecting the meals to be included in the Reunion registration fee as well as the style of meal service.

The typical agenda on page 5 of this newsletter identifies the various meal events associated with a typical Reunion. The Friday and Saturday suppers are required.; the Saturday night meal is usually called a banquet. A Saturday lunch can either be a planned event at the Reunion (or elsewhere) or leave the attendees free to do it on their own. A Sunday breakfast or brunch is a last opportunity for members to meet before leaving.

We have had both buffet-style and plated meals for the suppers. This will depend on what arrangements the Host Committee makes with whomever will provide the food.

The menu must be determined well in advance so that prices can be fixed and agreed upon with the food vendor. Once set, the price of any meal should not be changed since it will go into setting the registration fee for attendees, and this information must be sent out well in advance of the Reunion (typically 8-10 months). With a buffet setting, there may be choices of meat but there is only one price. With a plated meal, a menu choice may be provided but if there is a price difference among choices this must be available for registration form design and setup.

## SPEAKERS AND PROGRAM

The Host Committee is responsible for inviting guest speakers for the times shown on the agenda. The speakers may talk on a subject that is Violette-related, a genealogical topic, a topic related to the local area, or any other suitable topic. Normally we do not pay a speakers fee, though we do pay for their meals and any other Reunion-associated costs. However, if the Host Committee wants a speaker for whom a fee is required this cost must be included in the Reunion budget and covered by registration fees.

## TYPICAL REUNION AGENDA

The information below shows a draft agenda drawn from Reunion 2014 and will help the Host Committee understand what they will need to plan for and provide. Various details will change depending on the Reunion location and what is available in the local area, but the overall flow of the Reunion will follow the pattern shown below. The dates are preliminary.

### FRIDAY, August 4, 2014

Noon: Registration starts (provide venue address)  
 Noon to 6:00 pm: Visit with cousins, view tables and displays  
 6:00 pm: (Buffet/Plated) Supper  
 7:00 pm: ???, speaker (topic?)  
 7:30 pm: ???, speaker (topic?)  
 7:45 pm: ???, speaker (topic?)  
 8:15 pm: ??? (entertainment?)

### SATURDAY, August 5, 2014

Morning: Registration continues  
 9:00 am: Association Business Meeting and Voting (provide location)  
 10:00 am ±: (Provide some activity at Reunion location)  
 Noon: (Meal provided, or on their own)  
 2:00 pm: Vendors and Displays: (same as Friday)  
 6:00 pm: (Buffet/Plated) Banquet  
 6:45 pm: Introduction of new officers, Association announcements  
 7:00 pm: ???, speaker (topic?)  
 7:30 pm: ???, speakers (topic?)  
 8:00 pm: ???, keynote speaker (topic?)  
 8:30 pm: ??? (entertainment?)  
 9:15 pm: Raffle results

### SUNDAY, August 6, 2014

8:00 am: Breakfast at ???  
 10:00 am: Mass at ???  
 Farewells and Departure

## WHAT'S NEW WITH DNA TESTING?



By Nancy Nolette, VFA #1702

Have you heard about the 23andMe DNA testing service? Having seen and heard it advertised so often on television, I decided to give it a try, why not? I was curious about the genetics that make me who I am, T2b3-C151T.

Over a 15 year span I participated in several medical research studies. I was fortunate to aid product research for Omeprazole/Prilosec, benefits of orange juice with pulp in controlling high blood pressure, genetic cardiac research and the pre-60 age shingle's vaccination. So it was normal for me to complete the many questionnaires on my physical characteristics and traits while waiting for the 23andMe test results. After every question, I saw how others had answered and where I was related to our group.

I was curious about what diseases may develop as I age. I have two elderly aunts (aged 84 and 97) who share the same mitochondrial DNA (MtDNA) with me. Neither have cancer, Parkinson's, a cardiac condition nor Alzheimer's. And I do not either according to my 23andMe genic markers. So I can expect to age gracefully as they have (?).

Unexpectedly I have other accomplishments. I am a tissue donor and was contacted for further testing yet I did not make the final match for the recipient. To date I have shared my DNA genome results with Family Tree DNA, Gedmatch, Ancestry and 23andMe.

To narrow down my genetics, I joined the French Heritage, Belanger/Bellinger Family and T2 MtDNA groups. I already had my parent's lineage and voluntarily shared this information with them. Hopefully, these details would help others in tracing their ancestor's journey in time and place.

Then two separate families contacted me stating my genic markers filled in their missing MtDNA maternal ancestry. Most recently a Canadian genealogist matched my MtDNA to his client and gave me a certified list of my maternal ancestry back to the 1500s in France.

For the descendants of Francois Violet, we have the "Founding Mothers of Acadia" in our MtDNA. Francois' wife, Marie Luce, through her parents Jean Baptiste and Marie (LeBlanc) Thibodeau gave us this historical and noteworthy heritage.

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**RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR REUNION PLANNING**

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The Association has many resources available to a Host Committee; they have only to ask! And most will be automatically provided to the select committee.

### List of Members in Planning Area

The Webmaster has created an Excel workbook containing a list of members who live in southern New Hampshire, and all of Massachusetts and Connecticut. The list contains names, email addresses, addresses, and phone numbers, and currently contains 261 records. This list will be made available to those who want to consider hosting the Reunion in their area.

### Agenda Planning

The agenda for Reunions has followed a general pattern, with adjustments for features of the host area. See the typical agenda in this newsletter on page 5. The officers can help you in customizing this agenda for your venue and Reunion plan.

### Registration Support

A major function associated with Reunions is handling preregistrations as they come in and handling registrations at the door. Another part of this activity is greeting members as they arrive and finalizing their registrations and handing them the Reunion packets. Because he maintains the member database, the Webmaster can provide great support in this function. Together with the officers, the Host Committee must decide whether preregistrations will be handled by the Committee or by an officer.

Together with the Host Committee, the officers will help to design the registration form for the Reunion. A standard form is available that has been used in the past, with only contact and local info changed.

Some officers and others have helped to staff the registration table during the Reunion and may be called on to help out again at Reunion 2017. This activity needs at least three people staffing the table on Friday and on Saturday morning, and an additional two to three people need to be available as backups to replace them for breaks.

### Funds

We have operated in one of two ways in the past. Some Host Committees prefer to open their own local checking account and in those cases the Association will write them a check to start with. In other cases the Host Committee prefers to pay for items themselves and submit receipts for reimbursement. In any case, the Association can be called on to pay in advance for any single item and the Treasurer will be able to write checks to caterers, venues, and so on while at the Reunion.

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**ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING**

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An important part of every Reunion is the Association Business Meeting. Officers are elected at this meeting and other Association business transacted.

The Host Committee needs to only provide a place for this meeting to be held, and the officers will take care of everything else.

The space for the business meeting may be an area set aside in the overall Reunion event space, or someplace very near by. A table is needed at the front and seating must be provided for attendees.

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**SPACE PLANNING**

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The Reunion space must provide tables for various displays and for vendors. The number of vendors will be determined by the Host Committee in consultation with the officers.

The registration area needs room for at least two tables plus three chairs, and be located close to the entry door.

There needs to be a table for the Genealogist, with a couple of chairs for members to sit on while consulting him.

The raffle items will typically require about six to eight tables for items to be displayed and room for people to move around them.

There are several standard items displayed at Reunions, some on walls and some on stands. The space needs to provide areas for these.

**REUNION BUDGET**

The Host Committee is responsible for preparing a budget for Reunion income and expenses, in conjunction with the officers. Those who have organized Reunions in the past can provide great help in budget planning. However, the budget needs to be fixed far enough in advance so that registration fees can be set—normally about 8-10 months in advance of the Reunion. Below are income and expenses for Reunion 2014 for example.

<b>Income:</b>		<b>Expenses:</b>	
Preregistrations, meals, donations	\$ 4617.49	American Legion Hall Rental	\$ 400.00
Registrations at Reunion	360.00	Catering for meals	1,348.20
Meals at Reunion	399.00	Supplies, Anne Roy committee	109.09
Donations at Reunion	98.00	Supplies, Dave and Elaine Violette	758.75
Genealogy donations	30.00	Shipping, Rod Violette	48.30
Items Raffle	154.00	Entertainment (Adam Ouellette)	300.00
50/50 Raffle	240.00	Clothing, John Violette	452.60
Clothing Sales	345.00	50/50 Raffle payout	120.00
Canadian exchange adjustment	-73.46	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,536.94</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 6,170.03</b>	<b>Net Reunion Profit</b>	<b>\$2,633.09</b>

**MISSING MEMBERS**

Over time we lose contact with some members because they move and don't give us their new address. If you can help us contact any of those in the list below we will appreciate your help.

<b>VFA#</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>LAST KNOWN LOCATION</b>	<b>VFA#</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>LAST KNOWN LOCATION</b>
30	Joy McCabe	Woburn MA 1801	1071	Doris St Jacques	MONTREAL QC H1X 2R9
56	Marthe Pelissier	Somerset MA 2726	1124	Rhonda Brown	San Rafael CA 94903-1047
74	Mike Violette	Portland ME 4103	1191	Constance Gregoire	Augusta ME 4330
126	Walter Danner	Lawrence MA 1840	1234	Cynthia Sweet	Bristol CT 6010
158	Louis Violette	Ottawa ON K1G 5X9	1271	Patrice Taylor	Miami FL 33178
248	William Violette	Plainville CT 6062	1310	Richard Violette	
286	Edmond Violette	Oakland ME 4963	1381	Corinne Thivierge	Van Buren ME 4785
340	Annette Daigle	Skowhegan ME 4976	1493	Steven Violette	Waterbury CT 06720-0850
347	Sandra Castle	Naples FL 34108-2476	1644	Monica Hamel	Groton CT 6340
441	Alexandrine Gallant	Skowhegan ME 4976	1659	Charles Powers	Beverly MA 1915
516	Viola Pelletier	Mars Hill ME 4785	1752	Edmund Nolette	Delray Beach FL 33483
565	James Violette	Lavallette NJ 8735	1798	Michael Violette	Felicity OH 45120
641	Clara Violette		1842	Violette Lacaille	PIERREFONDS QC H8Z 2Y6
691	William Morrow	Tampa FL 33616	1851	Steven Violette	Gilmanton NH 03237-4338
693	Arthur Poore	Boothbay ME 4537	1890	Ann Fongemie	
841	Sylvio Violette	Van Buren ME 04785-1051	1902	Delmer Violette	Rocky Hill CT 6067
906	Karen Berrelli	South Windsor CT 6074	2008	Craig Violette	Augusta ME 4330
940	Norman Violette	Port Richey FL 34668	2021	Bruce Roy	Brunswick ME 4011
952	Donna Roix	Navarre FL 32566	2066	Georgette Lantagne	Lowell MA 1854
968	Roberta Adair	Scarborough ME 4074	2099	Dorianne Violette	
983	Peter Violette	Van Buren ME 4785	2102	Janet Violette	

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**MINUTES OF LAST GENERAL MEETING (VAN BUREN ME, 9TH AUGUST 2014)**

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**Call to Order:** 10:15 AM by President David Violette

Present officers were David Violette, President; Rod Violette, Secretary; John Violette with a proxy from Paul Violette, Vice-President. Absent was Don Hudenburg, Treasurer.

**Minutes:** Read by Secretary Rod Violette. Motion to approve by John Violette, seconded by Harold Violette. Passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Presented by David Violette. He reported a current balance of \$4,834.26. See attached statement. Motion to accept: John Violette, seconded by Harold Violette. Passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

*Coat of Arms.* Final approval by the Board, and \$500 paid to the artist who designed it.

The Board has voted to designate the Violette Family Association as Publisher of the book "*A Violette Family*" written by David Violette, Guy Dubay and Rod Violette. All royalties accruing will go to the VFA.

**New Business:**

*Copyright:* Approval of spending up to \$250 for the purpose of copyrighting to new Violette Family Association crest. Moved by Rod Violette, seconded by John Violette. Passed unanimously.

*Florida Get Together:* Organized by Lois Miller. Approximately 40 attended. Discussion followed with regard to promoting similar regional parties. Discussion on how best to promote. John Violette agreed to contact Lois Miller for the purpose of creating a "How To" guideline.

*Storage:* Anne Roy agreed to store reunion materials at the Acadian Village. Her offer was accepted.

*Recognition:* David Violette suggested giving special recognition to past officers of the association. Rod Violette volunteered to provide David with a list of past officers.

*Next Reunion:* There were no volunteers to chair the next reunion. A motion was made by Christine Lippincott, seconded by Elaine Violette, that a one year time limit be set. Should no one come forward, the reunion will be put off until a volunteer does come forward.

*Thank you to the 2014 Reunion Committee:* An expression of a hearty thank you was made to the 2014 Reunion Committee headed by Anne Roy assisted by Georgie Martin, Harold Violette, and David Violette.

**Election of Officers:** The chairman of the Nominating Committee, John Violette, presented a slate of officers as follows:

(Continued on page 8)

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**REUNION LOCATION SURVEY MAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

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Fill out the survey on page 8, then clip or copy this and send it to:

David A. Violette, President  
Violette Family Association  
2050 W Dunlap Ave Lot D54  
Phoenix AZ 85021

Email: [President@VioletteFamily.org](mailto:President@VioletteFamily.org)

Phone: (602) 803-5615 (Arizona Time Zone)

**Please mail by March 15, 2016.**

(Continued from page 7)

President: David Violette; Vice-Pres: Christine Lippincott; Secretary: Rod Violette; Treasurer: Louiselle Violette

John Violette asked three times if there were any other nominations. There being none, a motion was made by Harold Violette, seconded by Elaine Violette, that the slate be elected unanimously. The proposed slate of officers was elected by acclamation.

Adjournment 11:25 AM: Motion to adjourn made by John Violette, seconded by Louiselle Violette. Passed unanimously.

**MISSING MEMBERS (CONT'D)**

VFA#	NAME	LAST KNOWN LOCATION	VFA#	NAME	LAST KNOWN LOCATION
2119	Donna Merrill	NB	2274	Garrett Howell	
2143	Terry Bollea	Chatsworth CA 91311	2282	Brooke Bollea	
2149	Chantelle Violette	Lynn MA 1905	2288	Crystal Violette	
2170	Pat Fillingham	Henderson Harbor NY 13651	2314	Emily Belanger	
2174	Susan Kunz		2319	Michelle Frazu	
2212	Nicole Violette		2320	Thomas Violette	
2227	Richard Violette		2323	Chantal Violette	
2240	Patrick Berube	Springfield MO 65804	2324	Mathieu Violette	
2241	Elaine Schrock		2325	Nichola Violette	
2243	Scott Thibodeau		2349	Brandon Berrelli	
2244	Megan Thibodeau		2355	Anne McCreary	Kingston ON K7P 1T8
2246	Katie Norsworthy		2450	Derik Violette	Orleans ON K4A 3X9
2247	Jake Norsworthy		2479	Michelle Powell	ME
2248	Michelle Norsworthy		2480	Scot Corriveau	ME
2261	Richard Foley		2481	Laura Powell	ME
2262	Laura Flodin		2482	Jack Corriveau	ME
2266	Christian Richard		2483	Philippe Cyr	
2267	Jillian Daniels		2559	Hope Bowden	Eustis FL 32726
2268	Avery Daniels		2691	Alison Violette	Portland ME 4102
2269	Todd Dostie		2741	Candy Cleary	Milford ME 4461
2270	Bruce Dostie		2742	Lacey Cleary	

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**REUNION LOCATION SURVEY**

I would like Reunion 2017 to be held in (enter preference as 1, 2, or 3 where 1 is first choice). Name a specific town or city or region if desired. Mailing instructions are on the bottom of page 7.

\_\_\_ Connecticut:

\_\_\_ Massachusetts:

\_\_\_ Southern New Hampshire: