

Violette Family Association

“we are one”

President's Message

Hello cousins. And a special hello to those of you who are receiving this newsletter for the very first time.

Our secretary, Rod Violette, has scoured the Internet trying to recruit more Violettes into the association and he has been somewhat successful in this endeavor. It would be very helpful if any of you know of any Violettes who are not yet members to recruit them as well. It's very easy to join. All they need to do is send their name and address to Rod Violette and he will sign them up. He always sends new members copies of the most recent newsletter and a copy of their genealogy.

As a family we are very fortunate in having a book of our genealogy already in print. If some of you are interested, you can get that book on the Violette genealogy by contacting Rita Violette Lippe at 32 Louise Ave, Methuen, MA 01844. Rita was instrumental in founding the Violette Family Association over twenty five years ago and became our first president. She published the book “The descendants of Francois Violet” which contains thousands of names of Violettes going back around eight generations. Your name is probably in it. The cost of the book is \$35 plus about \$3 shipping. It also contains a brief history of the Violette Family as well as a number of photographs of our ancestors. The oldest photo is that of Rosimond Violette (1806 – 1888) on page 25. He was the brother of my great, great, grandfather, Beloni, who is pictured on page 27. If looks could kill Rosimond may have had the ability to do it. There aren't that many books left so either get one now by mail or take a chance and pick one up at the next reunion. Speaking of which, we only have a little over a year left until our next Violette Family Reunion

which will take place at the Town & Country Motor Inn in Gorham/Shelburne, New Hampshire on August 5, 6, & 7, 2005. Some of you may have attended the reunion we had there in 1996. Everyone attending that reunion had a real good time. This town is nestled in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and is a vacation destination for a lot of people. Some of you may want to extend your stay in the area either before or after the reunion and enjoy some of the various attractions New Hampshire has to offer. At each reunion we raffle off articles of craft, photos, memorabilia, etc. brought by some of our members for that purpose. The funds generated go to defray expenses of the reunion as well as help run the association. So this is just a reminder to those of you who have helped us in the past that we're going to do the raffle again and it's not too early to get started.

Most of you know that we don't have membership dues in the association. What we depend on is money generated at the reunion, if it's financially successful, as well as donations to help with the operating expenses. Our biggest expense, of course, is printing and mailing our newsletters. If you would like to help us with a donation you may send it to our treasurer, Louiselle Violette, 12 Woodland Circle, Bow, N.H., 03304. Anything you can do will be very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

John





New Violette Family Arrivals



Bernard and Anneleen Loughlin (MBR# 1805) have been twice blessed. They are the proud grandparents of two new granddaughters: **Mikaila Almira Loughlin** was born on 23 October 2002 to Michael and Alma Loughlin; and **Anna Catherine Bastille** was born on 28 August 2003 to Brendan and Joyce Loughlin Bastille.

More proud grandparents: Ralph and Judith Violette (MBR# 18) report the birth of a granddaughter **Olivia Violette** born 4 Jun 2003 to the happy parents Andrew and Thuy Violette (MBR# 1561). She was born after only 3 hours and 44 minutes of labor. Her father Andrew describes her as “cute” (aren’t they all). Photos are available at: <http://violette.ws/famalbum/>



Deceased Violette Family Members



#612 **Marie Leona Cote O’Clair** passed away in Auburn, ME on 19 September 2003 at the age of 89. She was predeceased by husband Walter O’Clair and is survived by at least three of her children MBR #1543 Patricia O’Clair Leonard, MBR #610 Roger O’Clair and MBR #613 James O’Clair.

661 **Lawrence P. Violette** passed away on 8 August 2003 at the age 74 in Avon Park FL. He is survived by his sister Teresa Violette Herbert (MBR #1768) who provided us with the information.

Pricilla Violette Fortin wishes to inform you of the death of her 1st cousin **George F. Violette** on 6 July 2003 in Augusta, ME at the age of 85. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Clemence Dutil of Augusta, ME

If you have information on Violette Family births or deaths, please send them to Rod Violette at the email address listed under ‘Officers’. Thanks!

In Search of Violette Family Members

We have lost contact with the members listed below. If you know of their whereabouts, please let Rod Violette know as soon as possible.

MBR #	NAME	RESIDENCE	MBR #	NAME	RESIDENCE
43	Wamer Westworth	Augusta, ME	1053	Dr. Robert Fontaine	San Francisco, CA
126	Walter Danner	St. Lawrence, MA	1069	Florence Hartt	Dumfries, VA
133	Arthur Bilodeau	Hollowell, ME	1078	Adria Ayotte	Sweden
187	Victor Lagasse	Skowhegan, ME	1099	Sharon Langdeau	Wolcott, CT
207	Richard Rumson	Salem, MA	1104	Priscilla Violette	Northridge, CA
241	Joseph Dewhurst	St. Lawrence, MA	1108	Rueben Doiron	Charlottesville, VA
271	Josephine Vandall	St. Lawrence, MA	1112	Blanche Perrier	Lewiston, ME
325	Cecile Violette	Greene, ME	1114	Terese Aronowitz	Springfield, VT
334	Thomas Violette	Phoenixville, PA	1118	Louis Violette	Rochester, NH
343	Lucy Lieber	Stamford, CT	1137	Gilles Violette	Cabano, QC
355	William Boland	Portland, ME	1142	Sr. Geraldine Violette	Ste. Anne de Madawaska
364	Emile Aubut	Grand Falls, NB	1188	Charles Bloxom	Tampa, FL
385	Audette Lambert	Augusta, ME	1247	Anne Theriault	Edmundston, NB
396	George Doucette	Scarborough, ME	1338	William Violette	Houston, TX
411	John Violette	Greene, ME	1344	Patricia Lemoine	Jewett City, CT
424	Lucille Chamberlain	Waterville, ME	1350	Delores Aubrey	Windsor, CT
448	Ulysse LaPierre	Corinna, ME	1352	Maurice Violette	Enfield, CT
525	Colleen MacIsaac	Gardiner, ME	1352	Robert Petrelli	Windsor Locks, CT
541	Joyce Violette	Caribou, ME	1409	Blanche Jacques	Massena, NY
546	Eileen Violette	Auburn, ME	1422	Michael Violette	Newport, RI
574	Paul Fontaine	San Francisco, CA	1426	James Violette	Westbrook, ME
591	Cecile Poulin	Augusta, ME	1475	Theresa Ferrato	Mesa, AZ
598	Russell Willis	Lancaster, NH	1478	Robert Violette	Skowhegan, ME
636	Louise Chase	Portland, ME	1480	Margareta Brissette	Manchester, CT
650	George Quimby	Arlington, VA	1496	James Violette	East Hartford, CT
670	Vicky Violette	Long Beach, CA	1521	Ronald Couture	Ann Arbor, MI
728	Stephanie McDonald	Greene, ME	1562	James Violette	Westbrook, ME
754	Leo Violette	Van Buren, ME	1592	Sgt. Destry Ogden	Clinton, UT
756	Jeanette Duym	Blue Hill, ME	1636	Barbara Locke	Coos Bay, OR
859	Lynne Florian	Plantsville, CT	1653	Cathy Freeman	Portland, ME
893	Gail Dubay	East Haddam, CT	1664	Claudette Poulin	Litchfield, ME
913	Blanche Violette	Quimby, QC	1674	Susan Carroll	Falmouth, ME
928	Emile Bastille	Somerset, MA	1686	Jim Milliken	Huntsville, AL
939	James Violette	Quimby, ME	1717	Norbert Violette	Satellite Beach, FL
992	Herbert Miller	Middletown, CT	1721	Kenneth Violette	Riverview, FL
1033	Joseph Bolduc	Winslow, ME	1780	Douglas Blaisdell	Oakland, ME
1037	Richard Violette	St. Lambert, QC	1827	Donald Violette	San Diego, CA

The next reunion will be Aug. 5, 6, & 7, 2005 in Gorham, N.H. In our next newsletter we will give you more details about registration and room reservations

Violette Family Group Members

Husband:		
	Birthdate:	Where:
	Date of Death:	Where:
	Date of Burial:	Where:
	Date of Marriage:	Where:
	Mother (maiden name):	
	Father:	
Wife (maiden name):		
	Birthdate:	Where:
	Date of Death:	Where:
	Date of Burial:	Where:
	Mother (maiden name):	
	Father:	
Children		
MF:	Name:	
	Birthdate:	Where:
	Date of Death:	Where:
	Date of Burial:	Where:
	Date of Marriage:	To:
		Where:
MF:	Name:	
	Birthdate:	Where:
	Date of Death:	Where:
	Date of Burial:	Where:
	Date of Marriage:	To:
		Where:
MF:	Name:	
	Birthdate:	Where:
	Date of Death:	Where:
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MF:	Name:	
	Birthdate:	Where:
	Date of Death:	Where:
	Date of Burial:	Where:
	Date of Marriage:	To:
		Where:
MF:	Name:	
	Birthdate:	Where:
	Date of Death:	Where:
	Date of Burial:	Where:
	Date of Marriage:	To:
		Where:
Additional information may be added on other side, such as grandparents, other children, other spouses, etc.		
Send to: Rod Violette		
1775 Barn Valley Lane		
Lincoln, CA 95648		
Tel 916 434-8136 Fax 916 434-8137		
E-mail: rviolette@starstream.net		

The Life and Times of Francois Violet

(An Excerpt of the Talk Given by Rod Violette at the Violette Reunion on 12 August 2002)

My name is Joseph Rodrigue Ronald Violette, son of Edgar and Ida Doucet, who was the son of Come and Flavie Cyr, he was the son of Francois and Sarah Mercure, the son of Theodore and Marie Louise Parent, son of Charles Armand and Theotiste Tardif, son of Francois and Marie Luce Thibodeau.

When I was a teenager, I knew those names as well as I do today because my father would drill them into my memory every chance he had.

When Rita Lippe began work on her book "The Descendants of Francois Violet" she sent a questionnaire to my father, who in turn forwarded it to me. That is when my association with Rita began and I became hooked on genealogy. Rita published her book in 1984 I began entering the names into my computer. There were approximately 9600 names in Rita's book. I have been at it ever since and have now accumulated some 37,000 individuals and 15,700 families in my database.

A few years back I was asked by the Violette Family Association to become the associations official genealogist, my reply was that I would try to maintain the genealogy data base but as far as I am concerned there is no other official genealogists for the Violette family than Rita Violette Lippe. She did over ten years of travel and research gathering information for her book, and spent a considerable sum of her own money to get it published. This gathering owes her a tremendous debt of gratitude, for without her these family reunions may never have happened.

With that said, I would like to recap for you a brief history of the Violette family in North America. Rita has written an excellent account in her book. Maurice Violette of Augusta has written a booklet on the very early history of Acadia, and of Charles, the father of Francois, and his legal problems in Louisbourg. I would like to concentrate more closely on Francois, his life and times.

Lest I be accused of plagiarism, I would like to make clear that none of my information comes from any basic research of mine. All the information I have gathered I have read from a book. Much of the information came from the

two publications I just referred to. Some other important publications are: "The History of Madawaska" by Fr. Thomas Albert; "Van Buren, Maine History" by Martine Pelletier and Monica Dionne Ferretti; "Madawaska Heritage" by Leo Cyr; and the more recently published, "The Papers of Prudent L. Mercure History of Madawaska" (published in 1998 by The Madawaska Historical Society). These papers are a very important source of information. They are a compilation of some 2200 pages of manuscripts copied by hand by Prudent Mercure and later transcribed into book form by Roger Paradis. Many of these papers were the source of information for Fr. Thomas Albert when writing "The History of Madawaska". Some of these volumes can be purchased from the Madawaska Historical Society.

So let us begin.

Francois was born in Saintes, France on October 16, 1744. He arrived in Louisbourg, Nova Scotia in 1749 with his father Charles and mother Marie David. His father's occupation was that of a roofer. His mother passed away May 26, 1751. When he was 6yrs old. After the fall of Louisbourg in 1758, the LaRoche, France records of April 28, 1759 show the arrival of Charles and his second wife Marie Sudois. But as the children are not listed we don't know whether Francois, 14 years of age at the time, was with them. My guess is that he stayed in North America. Since Quebec had fallen in 1759 and Montreal in 1760 the English were in complete control of all of Canada. I doubt that there was very much traffic from France to Canada and it would have been very difficult for Francois to return had he gone to France with his father. So, we are left to conjecture how a young 14-year-old Frenchman from Louisbourg ended up in New Brunswick with a bunch of Acadians.

Why did Francois end up in New Brunswick? Perhaps, fearing the same fate as the Acadians who were exiled to the colonies, or imprisoned in Great Britain when Louisbourg fell to the British in 1758. Francois may have decided to slip away and join some 3000 - 4000 Acadians who evaded the British and escaped north to PEI, Memramcook, Peticodiac, Mirimichi, and

Caraquet, Baie des Chaleur, and Gaspé as well as the St. John River area.

Acadians had been aware of the St. John River since the time of Champlain. Many forts had been built in the area. One of the first was Fort Jemseg built about 1632 by Latour. It is located a short distance south of Fredericton on the east side of the Saint John River.

We know that Francois, along with other Acadians, made their way to The Saint John River area, eventually settling on the Hammond River, a short distance from the Kennebecasis. They may have been chased off the St. John River by the raids of Monckton, Hazen and Studholme between 1758 and 1763, and settled on the Hammond River because it was off the beaten track. Not once did the raiders of the St. John River mention a settlement on the Hammond River. These raids were not just minor harassments, they were meant to destroy all property, both houses and animals, and in some cases resulted in the loss of life for the settlers.

Francois' name first appears in 1769 on the payroll of Simonds and White, the founders of the first permanent English settlement at St. John. He was employed, along with other Acadians, diking the marshes east of the city, something at which the Acadians were quite skilled. The same Acadians were also engaged by the

English at Fort Howe (St. John) cutting masts for British ships. In 1782 Francois had an account with Hazen & White, merchants of St. John. There is an entry for the purchase of some chocolate. (I didn't know that St. Valentine's Day was celebrated that long ago). The next trace of Francois appears in 1770 on the marriage records of Fr. Bailley. On May 6, 1770 Francois married Marie Luce Thibodeau. This was undoubtedly a reconstituted marriage as their first child Marguerite was born July 25, 1770.

On Jan 15 1790, Francois, probably not knowing that their request for lands in Madawaska had been granted, entered into a contract to purchase lot #15 adjacent to his property for 100 pounds. (About three years wages). This money was borrowed from Henry Darling of Saint John.

An interesting aside is that Francois' signature appears on this contract, but not on the request for the land grant in Madawaska. The Mercure Papers indicate that he signed with an X. I see

no reason why Francois was not able to sign his name, having grown up in Louisbourg from the age of 5 to 14, he must surely have attended school there.

We do not know how much Francois received for his two lots on the Kennebecasis, or why he decided to leave. Perhaps it was the lack of opportunity to practice their religion or that they missed their friends that had departed for Madawaska. Legend has it that they were harassed by their loyalist neighbors having their fences torn down and their root cellars opened during cold weather.

Nor do we know exactly when Francois arrived up river to settle in what is now known as Van Buren, ME. However we do know that Francois and his family of 12 children were settled in the Madawaska region by 1791 since his son Alexandre, who was born Sept. 29 1789 at Kennebecasis, was baptized on Jun 23. 1791 at St. Basile.

In 1791, Francois erected a gristmill on Violette Brook. He probably used the proceeds from the sale of his two lots on the Hammond River to finance the construction. The property changed hands many times, but a mill operated on that property until the 1950's. The settlement that grew around it was called Violette Brook. It wasn't until the 1840's that it became known as Van Buren.

The Violette family was involved in every aspect of the developing community. Francois was a commissioner of highways (not that they had that many roads). The first carriage road from Fredericton was completed in the 1850's. His son Francois Jr. was a Captain of the

Militia 4th Battalion York County. His grandson Belonie (s/o Francois Jr.) was on the Board of Assessors, a County Commissioner, and served as a State Representative in Augusta. Belonie also sold the land that the present church is built on to the diocese for \$200.00 in 1871, and contributed \$800.00 for the construction of the altar. Belonie's son Frederic and grandson Neil also were State Representatives. When Van Buren was incorporated in 1881, At least five Violette's appear as elected officials of the town. Some occupying more than one position.

One of our more illustrious relatives was Elmer Violette of Van Buren who was a State Senator and later a Justice of the Supreme Court of Maine. Another was Dr. Lorne Violette of St.

Leonard who served on the New Brunswick Legislature.

My great-grandfather Francois was the postmaster and first customs officer at the new international bridge when it was built in 1910. There are many other successful businessmen and farmers such as Fred Violette of Violette Motors and his descendants who still carry on the business today. We also have a few infamous, notorious relatives, the most interesting I think is Albenie Violette of St. Leonard also known as Walnut Joe who ran a rum running operation during prohibition. Having been raided several times by the authorities he set about to get even with the government. Having been alerted of a possible raid he cashed eight barrels of whiskey in a strong room in his hotel. The government seized the barrels and put an armed guard outside the door. Unknown to them Albenie had a secret entrance to the room, exchanged the eight barrels

of whiskey with identical barrels filled water. The agents took the barrels to Fredericton to be used in the trail against him. Albenie beat the charge of bootlegging by producing evidence of possessing a license to sell medicinal whiskey. Then he insisted that the government test the contents of the barrels, of course they found only water. He then sued the government for the loss of the whiskey and received \$8900 dollars for the loss of his whiskey

So you can see that from the very beginning Francois and his descendants were influential and active members of their community whether they were in the French-Canadian or Anglo-American environment. We can all be appreciative and proud of the legacy that Francois left us.

(The complete talk can be obtained from Mr Rod Violette at rviolette@starstream.net)

Surnames

(This information is an excerpt from an article written by Michael J. LeClerc in the NEHGS)

1. Women in Quebec most often kept their maiden names throughout their lives. Not until the late nineteenth century will you find a woman being referred to by her husband's surname, unless she was a widow.
2. Many French-Canadians had nicknames to differentiate between people with the same surnames, called "dit" names. ("Dit" is French for "called") For example, you might see "Houde dit Clair" or "Lemire dit Foucault." Over time, either name might be used as the surname. In many cases, the original surname would be lost altogether and replaced by the "dit" name or another variation. For example, my patrilineal descent is from Louis Houde. The surname became *Houde dit Clair*, which turned into *Clair*, becoming *LeClair*, and finally *Leclerc*.