

President's Message

I am proud to be your new president (2005-2008). I want to welcome all my new board members; Christine Lippincott (Vice President); Rod Violette (Secretary/Genealogist/Newsletter Editor); Paul Violette (Treasurer); Holly Watson, Betty Ashton (Reunion Committee); and Rita Lippe (Lifetime Honorary President). We look forward to planning a wonderful 30th. Violette family reunion that will be in Connecticut in 2008.

Let us not forget our past board members who did such a great job keeping our organization together. Thanks go out to John Violette (President); Marlene Violette (Vice President); Louiselle Violette (Treasurer) Your organization and reunion planning skills were highly commendable.

Looking forward, I hope that the entire association will go out and encourage our younger Violette family members to join and take part in our wonderful heritage. Your surname does not have to be Violette. Remember, there are no membership fees. We just want you to come together with us and declare that **“We Are One.”** It will be lots of fun as you learn about your family genealogy, meet other cousins, enjoy our family reunions, and be proud of our French Canadian heritage

Our 2008 reunion in Connecticut is going to be our association's 30th. anniversary, and we hope to have plenty of entertainment, speakers, and family “show and tell” items. Your board members have already jumped in trying to find the best location in Connecticut for the price and tourist attractions in the area. We will keep you updated. Please don't forget to give us your ideas.

My first assignment as president was to attend the dedication of the Violette Industrial Building (gristmill and carding mill) at the Acadian Village in Van Buren, Maine on October 15, 2005. Many Violette's were there. This event would never have happened without the financial backing of Alderic and Alice Violette. Our family now has another monument to our family history. We thank them very much.

We are always looking for volunteers to help in planning our reunions, and looking for suggestions as to what direction our organization should take. If you ever want to personally email me regarding any subject, please feel free to contact me at anytime (Bunnelloyallist@aol.com). I want to do the best job possible as your president, but your input and participation is vital to our survival, so please come forward. Don't be shy. We won't bite. We are family!

“WE ARE ONE”

Regards,
Paul J. Bunnell, FACG, UE

WE ARE ONE

A Violette Family Association Email Update

Greetings All

I would like to start this first email communication with a report on the wonderful experience we had at the Acadian Village at Van Buren, Maine on 15 Oct. 2005 with the dedication of the Violette Industrial Building, containing some of the oldest Grist Mill and wool carding machinery artifacts from the Saint John Valley. Thanks to the Corriveau family preservation, and Alderic and Alice Violette's financial help, this beautiful building now stands at the village for all to see. I know it was truly a moving experience for my family, and me and we were so honored to be among the few Violette members there to witness the ribbon cutting and blessing of this structure.

Following a special tour of the building, we enjoyed an old Acadian meal provided by the people of the Acadian Village. Anne Roy, director of the Village was our host and speaker. Her earthy and comical lecture really added to our wonderful Acadian meal of Ployes and Creton. She truly has a wonderful speaking gift as she described every step of the movement and construction of the Mill. Seeing and hearing the fiddle player brought back memories of the stories I heard about my own grandfather, Albert Violette, from Van Buren who played the fiddle.

Violette members who attended were Alderic's family, Alice, his son Paul and grandson Marc; Myself, wife Leslie and granddaughter Amanda Bunnell; Rod Violette who flew all the way from California; John and Louiselle Violette, and Bob and Nancy Violette from Winslow, ME. Camille and Robert Violette from Edmundston, NB; Gil Violette of Perth-Andover, NB; Greta (Violette) Robitaille from St. Leonard, NB and David Violette of Van Buren, ME who was a member of the construction crew. Even Beauty Queen, Miss Van Buren, Miss Ouellette who sang the National Anthem for us all.

I would like to thank all the above who attended and please forgive me if I have forgotten anyone. A special **“Thank You”** goes to Alderic Violette and his family who made all this possible.

Below are some photos of the recent event at Van Buren. Enjoy!



Blessing of Violette Industrial Building



John, Louiselle, Alice, Alderic, Paul, Rod

Take care to all,

Paul Bunnell, President

New Officers

President

Paul Bunnell
45 Crosby St.
Milford, NH 03055
Tel: 603-672-6616
E-mail: bunnelloyalt@aol.com

Vice-President

Christine Lippincott
1127 High Ridge Rd. PMB 224
Stanford, CT 06905
Tel: 203-431-2971
E-mail: calippin@snet.net

Treasurer

Paul Violette
402 Albert Dr.
Goldsboro, NC 27530
Tel: 919-736-4800
E-mail: purpleflyer@bellsouth.net

Secretary

Rod Violette
1775 Barn Valley Ln.
Lincoln, CA 95648
Tel: 916-434-8136
E-mail: rviolette@starstream.net

2005 VFA Reunion Report

The 2005 Violette Family Reunion got under way with registration activity shortly after noon on Friday, July 22, in our hospitality room. Louiselle Violette had set up all the packages for members who had pre-registered (thanks to Ron, Dick and others who helped at the registration desk) and Rod Violette, our secretary and genealogist, was all set to go with our genealogy charts. Harold Violette organized a tour of the local paper mill with about a dozen attendees.

Seventy-six people had signed up to have dinner on Friday evening and this was an ideal opportunity for the group to be together in order to renew old acquaintances and meet new ones. Following dinner, we had a presentation from Marty Ehngstrom, an engineer who had a career maintaining radio and TV equipment atop of Mount Washington. Through the use of slides, Marty was able to show us the various weather conditions on top of the mountain during the forty years he had spent there. This included the adventures of going up and down the mountain during the winter months as well as enduring blizzards while stationed there.

There was free time on Saturday for members to enjoy local activities. The hospitality room was open all day to care for late registrants as well as providing a place for members to gather and chat. We had tables set up to sell shirts and hats, another to display the goods that members brought for the raffle. We had 32 items donated for our raffle (thank you) which helped to defray the costs of the reunion. (Thank you Helene and Marlene for your help) Our banners were on display. Paul Bunnell had set up a display of Acadian cook books and other material on our Acadian heritage

We had a very well attended business meeting in mid-afternoon presided by John Violette, President, with reports by Marleen Violette, Vice-President, Rod Violette, Secretary, and Louiselle Violette, Treasurer. Much of the discussion had to do with setting a date and location for the next reunion. (2008 in Connecticut). Richard Violette, our nominating committee chairman, did an excellent job of getting a slate of officers for the coming term. Those who agreed to serve and were elected are Paul Bunnell of Milford, N.H. - President; Christine Lippincott of Ridgefield, CT. - Vice-President; Rod Violette of Lincoln, CA. - Secretary; and Paul Violette of Goldsboro, N.C. - Treasurer.

Saturday evening we had a group picture taken outside in front of the Inn followed by our banquet. At the banquet, we recognized the present officers as well as the incoming officers of the association. We also recognized the past presidents in attendance, which included Rita Lippe, our founderess and honorary president, Alderic "Dick" Violette of Warner, N.H., Richard Violette of Hampton, N.H., and Tom Daley of Marshfield, MA. We also recognized the oldest person – Alderic "Dick" Violette (89), longest married – Alderic & Alice Violette (67yrs.) of Warner, N.H., the youngest person was Katherine Violette (3) of Bedford, N.H., youngest married as well as traveling the longest distance was Joseph G. and Diane Violette of Madras, OR., and the largest number of siblings from the same family attending the reunion was the Remie Violette family consisting of

Joseph and Bob Violette along with sisters Jean Knight, Marie Francis and Alfreda Therrien...

The reunion committee consisting of Marlene and Conrad Violette, Rita Lippe, Richard Violette, and Louiselle Violette was recognized. Louiselle was given a nice standing ovation for all the work she had done in preparing the reunion and making a new banner.

Our featured speaker for the evening was Dick Violette from Warner, N.H. who enlightened us on the Violette Gristmill which was built by Francois Violette in 1791 and continued in the Violette family, with one interruption, until 1914 when it was sold by Frederic Violette. At the time of our reunion, Dick and Alice Violette were in the process of acquiring a gristmill and a carding mill from someone in the St. John Valley and relocating it to Acadian Village in Van Buren, ME., in honor of our ancestor Francois.

After the banquet, we had music provided by the T & C Motor Inn for our listening and dancing pleasure and some of us stayed until well after the band was gone.

Sunday morning most of us had breakfast together in the main dining room and then it was time to say good-bye. Although this was the lowest attended reunion (105) that the Violette Family Association has held, it was nevertheless a very successful reunion and the people who attended were very pleased to be there and had a good time.

Respectfully submitted,

John Violette, Chairman

Treasurer's Report July 19, 2005

Income		Expenses	
Balance 8-2-200	\$2038.18	2002 Reunion	\$260.85
Donations	725.00	Newsletters	3107.55
Interest	13.37	Misc.	60.12
2002 Reunion profit	3370.47		
2002 Reunion loan	700.00		
Total Income	6847.02	Total Expense	3428.52
Balance	\$3418.50	Louiselle C. Violette	Treasurer.

New Arrivals

Joshua Douglas Violette, born 12 May 2004 to proud parents Marc and Trisha Violette. Delighted grandparents are Rod and Helene Violette

Gerald and Ginette Violette are proud to announce the arrival of a grandson **Alex Violette, born 26 Dec. 2004**. The happy parents are Gilles and Ginette Violette.

A proud grandmother Greta Violette Robitaille is happy to inform us of the birth of her second granddaughter, **Brandon Alexi Powers, born 6 Jul 2005**. The proud parents are Wayne and Claudine Powers.

Deceased Violette Family Members

Marcella (Belanger) Violette, MBR# 485, passed away on 17 Oct. 2005 at the age of 84. Wife of Elmer H. Violette deceased former Associate Justice of the State of Maine Supreme Court. Marcella was the first woman in the St. John Valley to earn a doctorate degree. She worked tirelessly to preserve the culture of the St. John River Valley. She almost single-handedly saved the University of Maine at Fort Kent from losing its four-year status by forcefully testifying before a commission that had recommended reducing Fort Kent College to a two-year institution in December 1969. All those who love the St. John River Valley will miss her.

Alice Violette Simard, MBR# 1259, mother of Mona Simard Blanchette MBR# 1262, passed away 30 March 2005 at the age of 95.

The family of Irene Violette Charette MBR# 696 has suffered numerous losses in the past year. First, her brother –in-law, **Felicien Bonenfant MBR# 97**, passed away 16 June 2004. His wife Alice Violette Bonenfant predeceased him. Then her brother, **Paul Violette MBR# 99**, died 29 March 2005, and lastly her sister, **Doris Violette MBR# 1231** passed on 3 July 2005.

Stuart Edward Violette, brother of Roberta Violette Reed MBR# 257 passed away on 27 June 2005 of accidental drowning.

Armand Violette, distant cousin of Joseph N.F. Violette MBR# 1821 passed away 5 Aug. 2005 at the age of 84.

Georgiana Tardy Donnell, wife of Daniel Donnell of York Harbor, ME, passed away on 26 Nov 2004 at the age of 84.

Correction

In the May 2005 newsletter, it was misstated that Marlene Cyr Gordon was the sister of Col. Don Hudenburg. She was in fact the sister of Ann Cyr Hudenburg.

IN SEARCH OF

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

Nov. 2005

MBR#	Name	Last Address
158	Louis Violette	Ottawa, ON
283	Pearl Shoemaker	Los Angeles, CA
344	Anthony Violette	Kennebunkport, ME
352	Walter Dubay	Scarborough, ME
474	Pat Knight	???
865	Germaine Fortin	Peguabuck, CT
940	Norman Violette	Eagle Lake, ME
1041	Rita Violette	Stanford, CT
1064	Brigitte Violette	Quebec, QC
1086	Julie Laraia	West Hartford, CT
1123	Douglas Fisher	Winthrop, ME
1166	Bertha (Dube) Violette	St. Leonard, NB
1236	Phyllis Provenzano	Bristol, CT
1466	Levi Violette	Zephyrills, FL
1722	Stuart Chafetz	Honolulu, HI
1746	Carol Edgecomb	Old Town, ME

Odds and Ends

This is the fourth newsletter since the 2002 reunion in Edmundston, NB.

I mail to about 1000 households. 200 via e-mail and 800 via US Post. Cost of a newsletter is about \$700. Cost of e-mail is zero. So, you can see that the more members have e-mail the less the cost of publishing and mailing the newsletter. Although e-mail is cost efficient, it also generates a lot of work, constantly trying to keep up with all the address changes as people change ISPs.

On average, I get about two genealogy inquiries or an update on family information per week. Some of the inquiries come from non-members who have downloaded information from the LDS Family History Center. www.familyhistory.org. When people send me family information, I reward them by sending them a copy of their family tree.

As people make inquiries, I am constantly trying to extend the family lines of the non-Violette's. I have many volumes of reference books at home, which I use to do that. I started with about 9600 names that are in Rita Lippe's book, to over 46,800 today.

In the spring of 2003, I undertook a recruiting campaign for the association. I did an internet search using yahoo people search and identified 1174 Violette names in all 50 states. I proceeded to contact all that had complete addresses. The response was very disappointing, less than a dozen replies. Oh well, at least we tried.

I received an e-mail from Joe Reinhart telling me of a useful genealogy website at www.upperstjohn.com. You might give it a try.

Don't forget the family website at www.violettefamily.org. The webmaster is David Violette. He is Alderic's son.

I don't want to make a habit of this but, because he sent me some useful information, I would like to give him a plug for Paul Betit's phubai@suscom-maine.net new book entitled *Phu Bai*, which has the war in Vietnam as a backdrop. It is available at www.amazon.com or www.barnes@noble.com