

Violette Family Association

We Are One!

VioletteFamily.org
VioletteRegistry.com

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Newsletter

July 2020

**MEETING NOTICE: TRIENNIAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2020!
IT WILL BE A VIRTUAL MEETING. WE WILL HAVE ELECTIONS AT THAT MEETING.**

TRIENNIAL MEETING

The Violette Family Association will hold its 2020 Triennial Meeting on Saturday, September 12th, 2020. For the first time our Triennial Meeting will be held as a virtual meeting since we will not be at a Reunion.

The main voting issue will be **election of officers**. All four elective officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) will be voted on. Brief biographical notes on the nominees are included in this newsletter. We can accept nominations up to 15 days before the meeting—August 28th.

The tentative agenda is included in this newsletter. Members may submit additional agenda items to the Secretary for Board consideration. Such submittals must be postmarked no later than August 28th, 2020 if mailed; emails must be dated no later than that same date. The Board will decide if those items will be added to the agenda. The final agenda will be posted at the **VioletteRegistry.com** web site no later than August 28th.

The meeting will be held using the Zoom meeting system. See details on page 3 for how to attend.

SEE YOU AT THE TRIENNIAL MEETING! PLEASE VOTE!

YOUR MEMBER PROFILE

Please keep your member profile up to date. Sign in at VioletteRegistry.com with your username, which consists of VFA plus your member number (e.g.: VFA621). If you have forgotten your password, you can click on a link on that page to do a password reset; an email will be sent to you with a link to update your password.

If you don't know your VFA#, go to Membership/Am I A Member? And fill in your Person ID and email and the site will attempt to do a lookup of your VFA#. If you don't know your Person ID, go to

Genealogy/Family Tree to look it up. If all else fails, contact **President@VioletteFamily.org** for help.

Once signed in, go to Membership/Member Profile Viewing or Member Profile Editing to see or edit your profile.

It is especially important that we have your email address so you can receive communications from the Association. We need to keep the cost of mailing printed newsletters down and you can help in this way.

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PRESIDENT—DAVID A. VIOLETTE, VFA#621

David A. (Dave) Violette is a candidate for President. He has served in that role since 2011 and previously served as Secretary from 1993-6.

In the late 1980s Dave converted the membership rolls from cards to a database format, which greatly enhanced membership management. In 2001 he created the first VFA web site and has served as Webmaster until recently.

Dave had a career as a Civil Engineer and worked on projects all over the US. He retired in 2006.

Dave met Elaine in Green River WY, and they were married in 1985. Though born in New Hampshire, and having lived in several other states, Dave lived 22 years in Wyoming. They have resided in Phoenix AZ since 2000.

Dave worked with Rod Violette, VFA#12, and Guy Dubay, VFA#589, to publish *A Violette History*. This book covers the life of François Violet/Violette from his origins in France to his death in Van Buren ME in 1844. The original softcover edition was published in 2014 and Dave created a Kindle version in 2019. He also created both an electronic version of Rita Violette Lippé's *The Descendants of François Violet* and a softcover version in 2019.

Dave and Elaine headed up the Reunion Committee for the 1993 Lewiston ME Reunion and helped the Reunion Committee for the 2011 and 2014 Van Buren ME Reunions.

VICE PRESIDENT— RICHARD G. VIOLETTE, VFA#1812

I am a retired U.S. Navy Officer who subsequently also retired from the Defense Contractor community as a Business Development Executive. My Wife (Cynthia/Cindi 37092) and I reside in Maryland and in spite of living in Maryland for over forty years, I am a born and bred Cheesehead growing up in La Crosse Wisconsin (Badger Graduate and Packer Owner). As I grew up, we believed that there was only one Violette family in Wisconsin to which my Grandfather John Violette (2436) emigrated in the late 1800s from Maine. Being the only Violettes in Wisconsin, we knew nothing about our heritage because John moved on after my Grandmother Edith Moos (3090) passed away while my Father Carl

VICE PRESIDENT— (CONT'D)

(3289) was very young. My Son Scott (28780) discovered the Violette Family Association in the early 1990's while doing his own genealogy pursuits. After that, my wife and I joined the Association and attended Reunions in 2002 and 2005. After knowing so little about the Violette heritage for so long, I have become sincerely impressed with the work of VFA's founders and subsequent contributors and would consider it an honor to contribute through the role of Vice President.

TREASURER—PAUL L. VIOLETTE, VFA#1589

I am Paul Violette and I am running for the position of Treasurer because my predecessor Louiselle Violette, who happens to be my mom, retired from the position and asked me to take it over.

I am an original member of the Violette Family Association and attended the first Violette Family Association Reunion in Methuen, MA in 1978 when I was 12 years old. In all I have attended eight VFA reunions.

Previously, I have held the offices of Treasurer for two terms (2005-2011) and Vice President for one term (2011-2014) and am pleased to be running for Treasurer again.

I currently reside in St Louis, MO - moving here four years ago when my wife Deanna retired from the U.S. Air Force after 25 years of service. My daughter Annagrace attends the University of Colorado.

SECRETARY— PETER R. VIOLETTE, VFA#1793

Born and raised in Littleton, Maine, a small town just north of Houlton, Maine, Peter Violette, and Elizabeth Paradis had met during High School and soon were married. Pete's interest in family genealogy was first sparked by a newspaper article his mother had sent him in 1982. The report detailed the Violette family and how they had been traced to Louisbourg in 1749 and later back across the Atlantic to France. It told how Maurice Violette had joined forces with Rita Violette Lippe, a "genealogical buff" from Methuen, Massachusetts, and how they were able to expand their research on

(Continued on page 3)

SECRETARY— (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 2)

the Violette family back to France and that they had created a family association. Pete contacted Maurice in 1983, and he shared copies of the parochial documents he had obtained from France. Pete also reached out to Rita Violette Lippe, sharing with her what little information he knew of his family line, and she encouraged him to join the Violette association. Pete's interests in family history grew over the years into a passion and a desire to document and record his family's history. With encouragement from members of the association, in 2015, he completed and published his father's family history in a book simply titled the Violette Family Book. Then he turned his attention to researching his mother's family, which concluded in 2017 with the publishing of *A Family History: The Melville/Melvin & Burtons of Houlton, Maine*. He then joined forces with his wife traveling and researching her family's history, which wrapped up in 2019 with the subsequent publishing of *Dri-Ki – The Family History of a Paradis & Duval family from Maine*. Also, Pete authored two short articles for the association, "Couvreur" and "Charles Violet, Maistre-Couvreur at Fortress Louisbourg," both during 2019. Pete & Liz are the very proud parents of two children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandson, and they currently reside in Virginia.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS—HOW TO TAKE PART

With the 2020 Triennial Meeting we are breaking new ground for handling business of the Association because it will be a virtual meeting. Our recent Bylaws changes allow for holding meetings in this way for when we do not have a Reunion.

We will use **Zoom** to hold our meeting. There are two ways to use Zoom—with the **Zoom Desktop Client** on your computer or with the **Zoom Mobile App** on your smartphone. Zoom provides both voice and video, so you can see who is in the meeting and hear them. If your device does not have a video camera your image will not show in the meeting. From your computer go to **Zoom.us** and go to Resources then select **Download Zoom Client** and install it. From your smartphone go to Google Play Store or Apple Store and search for **Zoom Free App** and download and install it.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS—(CONT'D)

When it is time to join the meeting open the app and then click on **JOIN A MEETING**. You will then be asked for the Meeting ID, which is **912 3563 7986**. The password is **Violette**.

Zoom allows both voice and video, so you can use your computer, tablet, or phone video camera to let your image be seen by others.

Our Zoom Plan allows up to 100 connections to a meeting, so be sure to get there early enough to get signed in. Two or more people on the same connection only count as one. We will not be limited on meeting time.

If you only have a landline or flip phone you can still join the meeting by dialing one of the numbers below and entering the Meeting ID and Password using the phone's buttons.

- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 912 3563 7986

Password: 42981073

Or, find your local number: <https://Zoom.us/j/91235637986>

VOTING PROCEDURES

There will be two types of voting for this meeting: voting on accepting reports and voting on agenda items and for elections. Each will be handled differently, as described here. These instructions will also be displayed at the web site **VioletteRegistry.com**.

Voting On Accepting Reports

The Treasurer's Report and Secretary's Report will be read aloud by those respective officers and there will be an opportunity for discussion following the reading. Once all discussion is done the President will call for a motion to accept the report as read or as amended. Anyone in attendance can make the motion and another person may second it. The President will then call for a vote on the motion and members can signify approval by raising their hand

(Continued on page 4)

VOTING— (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 3)

or voicing “yes” or “no”. The President will determine how the members voted and state the outcome.

Voting On Agenda Items

The agenda will be set 15 days in advance of the meeting, and that final agenda will be published at the web site **VioletteRegistry.com**. There may be items under Unfinished Business and under New Business. New agenda items may only be added to the agenda at the Triennial Meeting itself upon approval of the Board members at the meeting.

In each case the President will call for any discussion on the agenda items in turn and once satisfied discussion can be closed will call for a motion and second on the item. He will then call for a vote on the motion and members can signify approval by raising their hand or voicing “yes” or “no”. The President will determine how the members voted and state the outcome.

Voting On Election Of Officers

Voting on officers will have taken place prior to the Triennial Meeting via electronic or mail-in voting. There will be no voting on officers at the Triennial Meeting itself.

The polls for elections will be open upon publishing of this newsletter via email or postal mail. The polls for elections will close as of the date of the Triennial Meeting.

Voting by mail

This newsletter has a ballot form that should be used to vote by mail. Simply clip the ballot form and indicate your vote by checking the boxes and then mail in the ballot to the address shown there. To be accepted, the mailed ballot must be post-marked on or before the date of the Triennial Meeting.

Ballots will be checked for duplicates and in the event of a duplicate with different results on any office no vote will be considered as being cast on that ballot for that office.

VOTING— (CONT'D)

Mailed ballots will be checked against electronic ballots for duplicates, with the same result as above.

Voting electronically

There will be a ballot form at the Association’s web site—**VioletteRegistry.com**—where members can cast their votes electronically. Members will be asked to sign in with their VFA # and a ballot form will appear. All electronic votes will be tallied electronically as well, and a check will be made to avoid duplicate ballots for the same VFA #.

Voting Results

The results of all voting will be posted at the VioletteRegistry.com web site within three days after the Triennial Meeting and will be reported via a newsletter also available at the web site and sent to members via email. The voting results will also be reported in the next printed newsletter, which may not come for several months after the Triennial Meeting.

ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors of the Association consists of the four elected Officers and the Immediate Past President. The Executive Committee consists of the Board plus several other positions within the Association that are filled by appointment. Here is a list of those positions as set forth in the Bylaws, and the current holders of the positions:

Genealogist—Peter R. Violette, VFA #1793

DNA—Nancy Nolette, VFA #1702

Webmaster—Michelle Archambault, VFA #1989

Membership Secretary—*vacant* (work currently done by David A. Violette VFA #621)

Newsletter Editor—*vacant* (work currently done by David A. Violette VFA #621)

Reunion Master—*vacant* (work currently done by David A. Violette VFA #621)

Historian—*vacant*

We need volunteers to fill those positions marked *vacant*. Dave Violette will be happy to help each person get started in that role and work with them during a transition phase. He needs your help!

VIOLETTE REGISTRY POST-COVID

By Peter R. Violette, VFA #1793, Genealogist

One positive thing that all this social distancing has caused, especially for the Violette Family Association, is that a team of amateur genealogists has been working night and day making minor corrections and fixes to the vast database that is the Violette Registry. The Association owes a huge THANK YOU to Gary Lévesque, from Van Buren, Maine. The closing down of things where he lives created a lot of spare time. Time that he wanted to spend in a useful way, so he chose to do research on the Violettes in Rita Lippe-Violette's book during all his newfound spare time he found himself with. When Rita did her original study, she had to do it the old fashion way. There was no Ancestry.com back then. With a new combing of the massive amount of records that are digitally available now, Gary has been able to find and bring to our attention some little typos or errors along with uncovering some additional information. He has been forwarding what he finds, along with the links to the sources, so that Rod and Pete Violette can verify and make the actual changes. If you see Gary, be sure and tell him "thank you" in person, for all the assistance he has been providing the Violette Family Association.

Along with what Gary has been doing, Rod Violette discovered that over the many years it took to build the huge database that is the Violette Registry, some duplicated entries of individuals had happened. Rod and Pete have been conducting a team effort to search out those duplicates and, once validated, to merge the duplicates, so there is only one individual.

One thing we can be sure of, once all this work is completed, the Violette Registry will be a more valuable tool and an asset to the Association.

EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED

We desperately need to have your email address so we can reduce the cost of mailing printed newsletters. Each printed newsletter costs us from \$1.00 to \$1.25 in the US, more to Canada. Get the info to Membership@VioletteRegistry.com.

If you do not have email, or want to continue receiving printed newsletters, please consider donating \$6.00 (or more) to cover the next three years.

TENTATIVE MEETING AGENDA

This agenda may change before the meeting. Please communicate any desired agenda items to the President at the return address on the back page or at the web site VioletteRegistry.com/meetings. The Board will consider items submitted on or before 15 days ahead of the Triennial Meeting.

The following agenda is as set forth in Article III of the Bylaws:

1. Consideration of items for, and approval of, the meeting agenda.
2. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. Corrections if any, and approval.
3. Report of the Treasurer.
4. Report of the President.
5. Unfinished business.
6. New business.
7. Report on Nominations for Officers.
8. Elections.

The final agenda will be posted at the web site VioletteRegistry.com/meetings 15 days before the Triennial Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY NEEDED

We are looking for a volunteer to serve as Membership Secretary. The duties include handling member info updates, working with the Genealogist to sign up new members, and working in the Violette Family Association Facebook group to encourage those who sign up there also get enrolled in the Association itself.

The membership database is stored at the web server and all operations are handled from our web site. No technical database knowledge is needed since you only have to fill out forms and work from menus.

Dave Violette will work with you right from the start to help get you going on your own. Contact him at President@VioletteFamily.org.

DONATIONS

Your donations are important to keep the Violette Family Association running. You can donate securely online at VioletteRegistry.com or send your donation to the Treasurer directly.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

By Nancy Nolette, VFA #1702, DNA and Heraldry

What's in it for me? Is a reasonable question when you are considering something unknown and new. Well, I am defining "it" as my DNA or those pesky 23 genes from each of your parents that came at birth.

I am sure you have been told that you look or act like one of your parents, an aunt, an uncle, a grandparent or other close relative. I have frequently. Have you ever wondered how you came by those traits? In the past twenty-five years significant research has evolved to answer a lot of our questions on who we are, where we came from and what influences our future.

I will begin by mentioning the prominent agencies that collect DNA, our genetic code: 23andMe, AncestryDNA, Family Tree DNA, MyHeritage and GEDmatch. Today the prices for the analysis kits are reasonable. Earlier versions included a hidden premium paid for researchers to collect DNA from obscure peoples who lived away from populated areas. By enlarging the DNA sampling many unique links were identified from their participation in this collection process.

Once you get a kit, you swab your cheek and send the tube to the processing center. Weeks later you receive the results of your genetic code: mtDNA for women and Y-Chromosome for men. Mothers pass their mtDNA (XX) to all her children while fathers pass their Y-Chromosome (XY) only to their sons. Brothers and sisters share similar genetics at a potential 50% match and can be identified as close relatives. Only identical twins, not fraternal twins, have the same genetic codes.

Today one privately owned DNA coding, analysis and storage service releases any genetic information to law enforcement. In the past this genetic coding was only released for identities for homicides and sexual assault cases. Times have changed due to the overwhelming number of cold cases of millions of victims, including families and friends, of violent crime victims and unidentified remains. Now GEDMatch users must OPT IN their permission to allow law enforcement access to their DNA coding. This requirement has closed off access to 95% of the database and made DNA crime solving much more difficult.

To understand, how genetic genealogy helps in solving cases is simple. It does not identify suspects. Those who OPT-IN may never know if their information has been used to catch a suspect. One reason law enforcement does not contact users is the risk of alerting a potential suspect. Law enforcement has no special access as they can only use the system and its features as other users yet only see matches with the OPT-IN kits. This process gives law enforcement a person or persons of interest where none existed before. Then they must use the traditional investigative techniques to identify and arrest a suspect.

Now do I OPT IN or not? I always thought that if I had nothing to hide why not? I am thinking otherwise. We all have an expectation and right to privacy. Often I hear that if we willingly give up our rights, they will eventually be eroded and then non-existent.

However, my strong sense of justice overrides my privacy rights. I am in.

The series continues in a future newsletter. . .

We survive on donations, since we have no dues and without Reunions no other major income. Our largest expense is our printed newsletter, which costs \$1.25 or more to print and mail. A donation of at least \$6 for three years will help defray that cost if you want to continue to receive printed newsletters. Otherwise, give us an email address to send it to you. Send to Membership@VioletteRegistry.com.

Donate



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THE VOTING FORM

Shall the Association elect the following officers for the triennium beginning in 2020?

President: David A. Violette, VFA #621 Yes No Abstain

Vice President: Richard G. Violette, VFA #1812 Yes No Abstain

Secretary: Peter R. Violette, VFA #1793..... Yes No Abstain

Treasurer: Paul L. Violette, VFA #1589 Yes No Abstain

Instead: Name: _____ Office: _____

Instead: Name: _____ Office: _____

Voted by: Member name: _____ VFA#: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email address: _____

Mail this ballot to:
Rod Violette
Secretary, Violette Family Association
1775 Barn Valley Ln, Lincoln, CA 95648

Why not send a donation while you are at it?
Make payable to Violette Family Association.
You can also donate securely online at
VioletteRegistry.com

A TRIBUTE TO ROD VIOLETTE

Rod Violette, VFA #12, recently retired as the Genealogist and Secretary of the Violette Family Association. Over the last year he has been working with Peter Violette, VFA #1793, to take over as Genealogist and a few months ago the baton was officially passed. As you can tell from his low VFA number, Rod has been part of our Association since the very start. In fact he was one of the volunteers who collected Violette names and addresses to help Rita Violette Lippe, VFA #1, build her seminal genealogical work. He checked in phone books as he traveled as an airline pilot.

Rita’s work produced the book, *Descendants of François Violet*, in 1984. Rod was interested in expanding on that and with his budding interest in genealogy started building a computerized database using Rita’s work as a starting point. Today, that database contains over 86,000 names—about 28,000 of which are direct descendants of François!

Rod got active in the Association itself with his election as Secretary in 2002. He has held that post for those last 18 years but has asked to be replaced as of this next triennium.

Rod has spent many thousands of hours helping hundreds of people search their Violette roots and producing reports for them of their family tree.

Rod is highly respected by well-known international genealogists with focus on Acadian, northern Maine and New Brunswick, and Maritime area families and history. He has worked closely with them to ensure the accuracy and completeness of our family data.

Rod was a coauthor of *A Violette History*, an important work that traces Francois’ history up through about 1831.

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THIS NEWSLETTER CONTAINS OFFICER NOMINATION AND TRIENNIAL MEETING AND VOTING INFO.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR EMAIL

You won't get Association news if we don't have a current email address or mailing address! You can update those in your Member Profile or send the info to **Membership@VioletteRegistry.com** or to the President's mailing address (see page 1).

DONATIONS

Your donations are important to keep the Violette Family Association running. Our major expense is printing and mailing newsletters. You can donate securely online at **VioletteRegistry.com** or send your donation to the Treasurer directly.

Donate



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HAVE NEW FAMILY MEMBERS?

Don't forget to let us know so we can add them to the Family Tree and as members of the Violette Family Association!

TRIENNIAL MEETING

We will have our Triennial Meeting in September. It will take place using electronic means, and this newsletter will tell you how to "attend" that meeting.