

Violette Family Association

We Are One! VioletteRegistry.com www.Facebook.com/VioletteFamilyAssociation



Newsletter

Fall 2024

VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I want to share a few things that your Board of Directors is looking into. They are wrestling with whether incorporating is in the association's best interest. Incorporation brings some benefits that many of us feel are needed by the association, one of which is that once incorporated, the association can publish books for the association. In the past, books that were published for the association had to be published by a member. This creates ownership/publishing issues, especially if that member passes.

I recently had the opportunity to visit with Ralph Theriault at his home. He was instrumental in starting the family organization for all the Theriault/Terriau (there are 24 ways their family name has been spelled), and developing the website on [The Family of Jehan and Perrine Terriot](#). We discussed several issues and topics, one being our shared interest in old mills and another being how family organizations such as ours can best transition into the future. During our short visit, we didn't find the answer to how organizations like ours can best transition into the future, but I believe the answer lies in our membership. I think that the more members we engage and the more things we discuss and try, we will eventually find our answer to this question. With that, I'm encouraging everyone to reach out to one of our board members and let us know your thoughts on what you think. What would you like to see from "your" association? How do you envision the association in 5 years, 10 years, or 20 years?

Now that we have transitioned to only electronic newsletter distribution, we want it to be distributed annually. In the past, due to the cost of mailouts, the newsletter was only going out periodically, sometimes with three years between issues. We think it is vital to keep members informed on what is being done and to pass on any new family history discoveries, and the newsletter is the prime vehicle for doing that. Let us know your thoughts on the newsletter. Are you OK with the once-a-year distribution? Are there things you would like to see added to the newsletter? Feel free to drop me an [email](#) to me or any other Board member to share your thoughts!

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST PAPERLESS NEWSLETTER

Our newsletters are posted on the VFA website and available anytime by anyone for an easy download and home printing. Please remember to keep your member profile up to date with your most current email address by logging into your VioletteRegistry.com website account and going to the "Member Profile Editing" page. Go to the newsletter section on [Updating Your Profile](#) for more details. Otherwise, email updates to Michelle Archambault at Webmaster@VioletteRegistry.com. Thank you for your help.

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ARCHIVING OF VIOLETTE FAMILY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTERS

During July, the Violette Family Association worked with Patrick Lacroix, Director of Acadian Archives, University of Maine at Fort Kent, to create a permanent archive of the association's old newsletters. To accomplish this, Patrick selected archive.org. Members of the association can now access all the old newsletters at The Internet Archive: [Violette Family Association Newsletter Archive](#).

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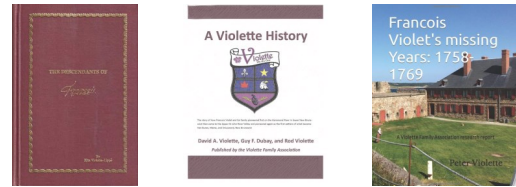
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HAVE NEW FAMILY MEMBERS?

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

VIOLETTE FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS



We have three (3) Violette family history books available from the Violette Family Association.

The first book is the "[Descendants of Francois Violet](#)" by Rita Violette Lippe which was digitized since the original books are no longer available.

Our second book is a narrative of the founders of the Violette family detailed in "[A Violette History](#)." The authors are David A. Violette (VFA #621), Guy Dubay (VFA #689) & Rod Violette (VFA #12).

The third book is by our VFA historian Peter Violette (VFA #1793) titled "[Francois Violet's Missing Years: 1758-1769](#)".

Peter did a deep dive into the years that the association had no records for our founder, Francois. The purpose was to gain an insight and better understanding of what was happening during those missing years and how they may have impacted our pioneer ancestor to New France, present day Canada.

The books are available in print and/or digital formats from Amazon. The print edition prices range from \$18 to \$38 and the downloadable electronic versions typically cost \$10.00.

The Violette Family Association receives a small royalty on each edition sold.



The Violette Family Association Coat of Arms, adopted in 2014

AN OLD VIOLETTE MILL

By Pete Violette - Violette Family Genealogist & Historian

I have been working on a research project, looking into the early mills owned and operated by our ancestors. This led me to discover that not only did the past ancestors have a grist mill, but they also built what was perhaps the first sawmill and the only fulling mill in Van Buren, Maine. My research has uncovered a series of grist mills, five to be exact, not all built/owned by Violette's, but all on the original Violette mill privilege. But how can one understand what these early mills looked like?



François Violette Jr's 1828-68 mill: Courtesy Author

The answer to that question was provided by a gentleman named John Braudrick, a retired draftsman/engineer who lives in Wales, U.K. John has 50 years of experience and a keen interest in old wind and water-powered mills. He has primarily focused on European mills but has recently expanded into mills in the U.S. I joined forces with John. Over several months of collaboration, and for a small fee, John was able to develop an Architectural Rendering of one of the five grist mills, François Violette Jr's 1828-68 mill. The mill was built by François around 1828 to replace his father's 1791 mill that had fallen into disrepair. The mill was located in the Madawaska Settlement area of the Northern Saint John River Valley at what was first known as Ruisseau des Violette (Violette Brook) and later renamed Van Buren and incorporated as such in 1881.

What is unique about this mill is that we believe it was built using the predominate building method used in the Upper Saint John Valley by the Acadians known as "pièce sur pièce, tenon en coulisse," a timber and log construction, which was developed over three centuries in the Maritime Provinces.

John plans to show off his renderings of François Violette Jr's 1828-68 mill with The International Mological Society (TIMS) and the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM). If you belong to one of these organizations, be prepared to see his beautiful depictions of François Mill in future issues of their magazines. Members of the association can view John's renderings of François Violette Jr.'s mill here: [Violette grist mill](#). Our ancestor's mill is one of only three U. S. mills that John has thus far rendered and perhaps the only Acadian mill ever to be rendered.

Details of John's renderings will be released soon in a research report titled The Violette Mills 1791-1953: From Wooden Waterwheels, Buhrstones & Saws to Turbines & Roller Mills, which our historian has been working on since 2021.

On 29 Aug 2024, my wife and I met with John Pluto and Jim Dumond of the L'Heritage Vivant-Living Heritage, who operate the Acadian Village in Van Buren, Maine. The object of our visit to the Acadian Village was to present a poster created from John Brandrick's renderings on behalf of the Violette Family Association, along with a detailed write-up justifying how John and I had determined how the mill may have looked. John stated, "Although the internal layout is speculative, it is based on several similar mills that still exist and the materials, technology, and skills that we believe were available at that point of the country's history."

During the presentation at the Acadian Village, John Pluto requested that digital copies of the poster and supporting write-up be shared with Patrick Lacroix, Director of Acadian Archives, University of Maine at Fort Kent, and this was done.

FRENCH-CANADIAN RECIPES

NOTE: The Board will be undertaking a project to develop a book of Violette family recipes. Our goal is to preserve recipes from our heritage so that they can pass on to later generations and make them available on Amazon.com. Watch for an upcoming email on how you can contribute your favorite family recipes to this endeavor. In the meantime, we want to pass along these recipes that were generously provided by Nancy Nolette.

CANADIAN FRIED DOUGH

This beaver tails dessert is popular in Canada and is also known as pigs' ears. This type of bread is fried and covered in an assortment of toppings

Prep Time: 30 mins
Cook Time: 20 mins
Additional Time: 1 hrs 5 mins
Total Time: 1 hr 55 mins
Servings: 20

Ingredients

½ cup warm water (110 degrees F/45 degrees C)
5 teaspoons active dry yeast
1 pinch white sugar
1 cup warm milk (110 degrees F/45 degrees C)
3 large eggs, beaten
⅓ cup vegetable oil
⅓ cup white sugar
1 ½ teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
5 cups whole wheat flour
1 quart vegetable oil for frying

Cinnamon Sugar:

2 cups white sugar
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon, or to taste

1. Mix together warm water, yeast, and 1 pinch white sugar in a large bowl; let sit until creamy, about 5 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, grease a separate large bowl and set it aside.
3. Stir warm milk, eggs, 1/3 cup vegetable oil, 1/3 cup white sugar, salt, and vanilla into yeast mixture until sugar is dissolved. Stir in 2 1/2 cups flour until no dry spots remain. Turn dough out onto a floured surface and knead in remaining flour, 1/2 cup at a time, until dough is no longer sticky. Knead until smooth and elastic, about 10 minutes.
4. Form dough into a ball and place it into the prepared bowl. Cover with a towel and let rise in a warm place until doubled in volume, about 1 hour.
5. Punch down dough and knead a few times to reshape it. Pinch off a piece of dough about the size of an egg, then roll into an oval shape, about 1/4-inch thick. Place on a dish towel, cover with another dish towel, and repeat with remaining dough.
6. Heat 4 inches oil in a deep fryer or large saucepan to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C).
7. Make cinnamon sugar: Combine white sugar and cinnamon in a shallow dish or pie plate; set aside.
8. Lower dough carefully into hot oil in batches and fry until golden brown, 1 to 2 minutes per side. Drain on a paper towel-lined plate. Gently press fried dough into cinnamon sugar while still warm; shake off excess sugar.

Tips: You can cover the bowl of dough with a hot tea towel to speed up the rising process.

FRENCH-CANADIAN RECIPES (cont.)

CORTON

Corton is a French-Canadian and now Americanized meat spread. It is usually served on crackers, bread or toast. Also known as “Cretons” or “Gorton”.

Ingredients

- 1 ½ to 2 lbs of ground pork
- Water
- 1 small onion finely chopped

Cook the pork and onion for 3-5 hours on low temp. Frequently stir the ground pork to ensure the chunks of meat are minimized while mixture reduces. Keep enough water for the pork mixture to look moist while cooking. The purpose of the water besides cooking the pork is to form a thin layer of fat that brings out the flavor when finished.



After 4 hours of cooking the mixture, add these ingredients to taste and continue to simmer:

- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp ground clove
- ¼ tsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp sage
- ¼ tsp pepper

It is best to begin with less of these seasonings, then add more to taste. The pork mixture will look moist when you stop cooking. Remember, the spice taste will enhance the pork as it cools.

Transfer the pork to a container with low sides for ease of serving it with a knife. Refrigerate and serve.

VERIFY AND UPDATE YOUR MEMBER PROFILE

Your Member Profile contains all we know about you EXCEPT for genealogical data. Genealogical data is stored in a different database and is not editable by members. To update your Member Profile you first have to sign in using your personal username and password. Those were provided to you in an email; if you did not receive them contact Peter Violette at peteviolette47@gmail.com to get new ones.

When you go to the web site VioletteRegistry.com you will see at the right end of the menu bar a selection called **Sign In**. Click on that and then enter your username and password where requested. Once signed in, you will see your name in the upper left, under the Violette Registry banner. Then go to **Membership, Member Profile Editing** to see your Member Profile.

There are four tabs at the top of the form. The first one shows **Personal Info**, which includes names and other personal information. Fields shown in blue cannot be edited by the member.

The second tab shows **Contact Info**, including address, phone numbers, and email address.

The third tab shows **Events** such as date and place of birth, date and place of death (if deceased), and marriage data and place. Members cannot edit this data since it comes from the genealogical database and is only shown here for reference.

The fourth tab shows **Preferences**. This is where you indicate how you want to receive newsletters and eNews.

On each tab page there is a **Submit changes** button; if you make any changes click the button for that tab **before** going to another tab.

Contact Pete Violette at peteviolette47@gmail.com for any questions.

AM I A MEMBER?

Are you sure whether or not you are a member of the Violette Family Association? Do you want to check on a family member? There's an easy way to do it. Go to VioletteRegistry.com, hover over the **Membership** button on the menu, then select **Am I A Member**. You do not need to be signed in to do this search.

You will see a screen with instructions to the right of some textboxes. You can do the search by enter-ing your **Person ID** or your email address in the ap-proprate textbox.

If you do not know your **Person ID** the instructions tell you how to find it; you can do that search at VioletteRegistry.com as well. Your **Person ID** shows your inclusion in the Violette Family Tree and proves you are on record as a descendant of François Violette, and that is all that is necessary to be eligible to be a member of the Association.

When you enter your **Person ID** and click the **Check Status** button and are successful, a message on the screen will let you know that. A message in green above the textboxes shows two facts: a person with that **Person ID** is a member and that **Person ID** is in the genealogical database. If the **Person ID** was found and the person was not a member, only the second message would be shown. Below the text-boxes is a message giving the VFA # of the member.

Entering your email address and clicking the **Check Status** button will give similar results. This time the message above the textboxes shows the person with that email address is a member of the Association. Below the textboxes is a message giving the VFA # of the member.

"I'D RATHER BE FISHING", SAID ARNOLD RICHARDSON, A ONE-TIME MOVIE ACTOR

By Nancy A. Nolette

"I'd rather be fishing," were the words that describes Arnold Richardson. And he could fish for hours, if not days, as proven while filming "A River Runs Through It." Our Violette cousin, Arnold, was a one-time actor in this 1992 Robert Redford movie. He portrayed the elderly Norman Maclean and seemingly enhanced the popularity of fly fishing.

Arnold was born in Bradley, Maine on February 23, 1914. He is the first born of John "Jack" Wellington Richardson and Rose Violette Richardson. Rose is the second of nine children of Paul (1858-1939) and Ozithee Ouelette-Willett (1861-1902) Violette. Jack heralded from the small coastal town of Stonington known for lobsters and granite. He was a skilled brick layer and stone mason.

Arnold's mother passed on April 17, 1922 when he was just 8 and his sisters, Hildreth was 6 and Cleo was 5. At this time his father asked his sister, Lyda Richardson, to raise Arnold so off to Stonington he went. His Aunt "Ly" faithfully took him each Sunday on the ferry to Blue Hill for his religious education.



After he finished high school, he joined his father moving to Washington state creating a company making wooden blinds. Later Arnold apprenticed

Seated left to right: Ed Nolette, Arnold Richardson, Frances Richardson and Nancy Nolette

under this father and became a brick layer and stone mason. He spent most of WWII as a civilian working on government projects throughout Alaska.

Life of a skilled tradesman involved a lot of travel including Montana where he learned to fly fish in the late 1940s. His moment of fame was in 1948 outside of Mack's Inn on Henry's Fork of the Snake River in Idaho. Arnold caught so many fish in a spectacular way that it earned him a free T-bone steak. The chef told him that customers seated at the window went wild over his display of flyfishing techniques. He was told that any time he wanted to return to fish outside the restaurant, he would get a free meal.

Arnold's first marriage in Glendale, California produced a son he named John after his grandfather and great-grandfather.

Subsequently Arnold became a fishing guide paying more than brick laying. His flyfishing expertise and reputation grew well into the 1950s.

A construction accident in the 1960s sent him back to his place of birth in Maine where he met and married the widow, Frances Cota Spencer, from Spencer's Store, famous for its homemade ice cream. Meanwhile Arnold was awarded the concrete block subcontract addition onto the Ellsworth County Jail. Arnold taught Frances' son, Norman Charles, apprenticeship masonry skills by carrying the mud-mortar mixture and concrete blocks onto the staging.

Construction work kept them traveling and living a year in Burlington, Vermont. During a get-away weekend in White River Junction, Vermont, Arnold introduced his first cousin's husband how to fly fish. Other locations where his masonry skills took them included Buzzard's Bay, Massachusetts and Dustin, Florida. The

(Continued on page 8)

"I'D RATHER BE FISHING", SAID ARNOLD RICHARDSON, A ONE-TIME MOVIE ACTOR (cont.)

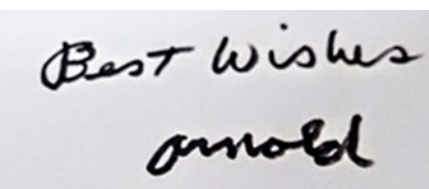
(Continued from page 7)

stone fireplace he built in Buzzard's Bay credited his artful stone setting skills in several magazines.

Arnold always wanted to retire in White Fish, Montana yet settled initially in Livingston, Montana where Frances and he managed the Sherwood Inn, a senior apartment complex for about 15 years.

In 1991, Robert Redford and crew arrived in Montana. Frances' son persuaded Arnold to respond to a small ad seeking men in their late 70s with this notice, "Must be excellent fly casters." Yes, he always loved to fish for "trout" and this brought him to movie fame.

The casting call narrowed the applicants down to two men with graceful casting ability. The younger tied his knot smoothly and with finesse. The older struggled and shook while mentioning his eyes weren't so good spending a good five minutes trying to tie his turtleneck. Redford asked to meet the older man, Arnold, and hired him for the part.



"The shaking hand struggling to tie a knot at the end of the film are a trademark of the movie and tell a story in themselves." You cannot miss the old man's veined hands displaying that a man his age feeling this passage of time would have for his younger days that are gone forever.

Richardson enjoyed working on the film although it involved a lot of standing around waiting. He worked well with Robert Redford and Brad Pitt. He mentioned Redford was easy to talk with on many diverse subjects.

Arnold never read the novel that created this flyfishing obsession until he got this part in the movie.

In time, Arnold and Frances retired to Townsend because of the fly fishing in Canyon Ferry Lake. Arnold switched from wading directly in streams to fishing from boats and owning many at different times. In the tradition of a Maine fisherman, Arnold did not brag about his movie stardom yet he had a promotional movie poster signed by Redford.

My memories of Arnold include playing chess with him. Arnold always won.

He told me he had to fly cast with a "cane" rod in the movie. He had never used a cane flyrod yet easily mastered it while practicing for the movie scenes. Arnold said he stood for hours in the cold, very cold river water fly casting for the cameras to film. Arnold claimed these filmed hours landed on the editing room floor that we wished he had been able to watch.

I recall visiting Arnold and Frances in Livingston. He was off one afternoon playing "Texas Hold'em" at the nearby golf club. As we left in our RV to drive back to California, Frances gave us a couple trout Arnold had caught. They were delicious.

In October 2002 my father and I diverted from our sightseeing in Yellowstone National Park to visit Frances and Arnold in Townsend. They knew we were going to visit them. Frances had prepared an early "Thanksgiving" meal for us to enjoy with them.

I returned to Townsend in the fall of 2009 after visiting Glacier National Park for a short visit with Frances and Arnold. They were glad to see us. As we left them, we promised to visit again.

Frances passed on November 23, 2010 followed two weeks later by Arnold on December 6, 2010 both in Townsend, Montana. Frances is buried with her first husband, Arlo Spencer in Bradley and Arnold with his mother Rose Violette Richardson in Old Town.

MISSING MEMBERS

Over time if Members do not update us with a new mailing address, phone, or email we lose the ability to contact them. The following list shows those members we can no longer contact. If you would either let us know how to contact them now, or ask them to contact us to update their Member Profile, we would greatly appreciate the help! The city and state/province shown are from the last information we had on the Member. Names are sorted by last name, then first name.

The contact for updates is PeteViolette (VFA #1793) by email at: peteviolette47@gmail.com.

VFA #	Name	City
2085	Thomas Audet	St. Paul, MN
2573	Daniel Ault	Brewer, ME
2107	Dennis Bonenfant	Norwalk, CT
1202	John Charette	Ansonia, CT
1153	Violette Chasse	Garden City, SC
2434	Kurtis Dube	Hudson, MA
1912	Constance Lantagne	Olympia, WA
77	Margaret Lavigne	Vernon, CT
2113	Heriberto Lopez	Oldsmar, FL
536	Joan Ouellette	Augusta, ME
966	Allen Ouellette	Larchwood, IA
2895	Claudette Poulin	Lewiston, ME
1274	Regina Quinn	West Hartford, CT
2020	Vernon Roy	Brunswick, ME
2311	Christopher Sarchi	Cumberland Foreside, ME
1500	Carol Sierska	Manitowoc, WI
1266	Oneil Simard	Burlington, CT
2746	James Snyder	Sanford, ME
2677	Robin Tyler	Pittston, ME
1464	Larry Violette	Orland, ME
720	Gail Violette	Ipswich, MA
1561	Andrew Violette	Hoffman Estates, IL
1861	Elizabeth Violette	San Mateo, CA
2091	Regina Violette	East Orland, ME
1982	Scott Violette	Fenton, MI
1642	Willis Violette	Gladwin, MI
2087	Phillip Violette	Danielson, CT
2004	Michael Violette	Boise, ID
945	Carleen Violette-Collins	Lebanon, ME
2042	Charles Willette	Dingman's Ferry, ME

DONATIONS

To make a secure, online PayPal donation to the Violette Family Association scan the QR Code below use this [link](#).

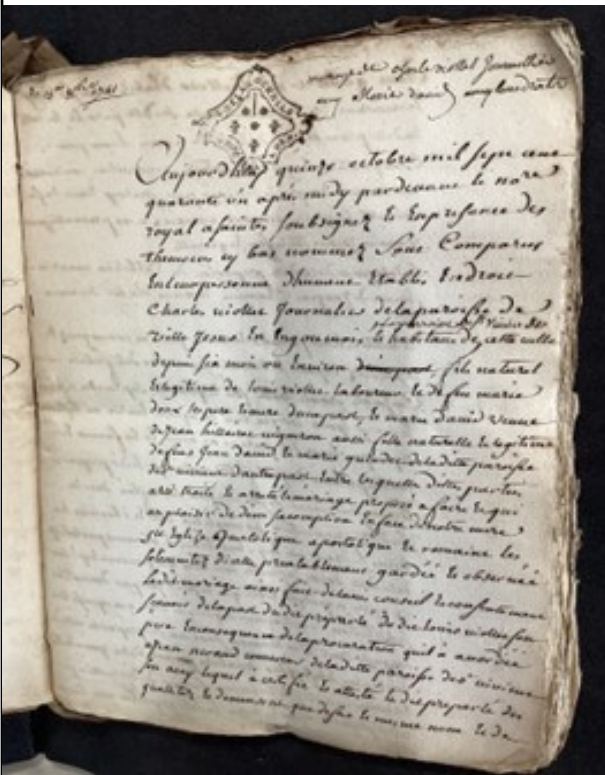


CONTRATS DE MARIAGE

By Pete Violette - Violette Family Genealogist & Historian

Contrats de Mariage is a French notarial act for a marriage contract and was widely used during our ancestors' times. In the April 2023 Newsletter, we published an article, "Finding Proof," about how we had recently found the marriage contract for Louis Viollet and his wife, Marie Doux, dated 3 January 1715. We did some more digging and uncovered two marriage contracts in France for Charles Violet, one between him and Marie David from 1741. And the one for him and Catherine Ytier, dated 1761. The signing of the marriage contract was an essential part of the marriage celebration. Which usually happened a day or so before the actual marriage, and the contract usually included items such as the couple's names, their parent's names, their place of birth, occupations, witnesses, sometimes their ages, and the terms of the contract—contracts varied by what each brought to the marriage. So you now see why we are excited about locating these old documents.

Louis Viollet's contract was obtained from the Charente archives via their website, where a request was filled out, and a nominal fee was paid. This was not so for Charles's two contracts; they were in another archive with no such request form on their website, and they actually suggested that we visit the archive and research the document ourselves. The final answer was that we joined a genealogy group in France, Le Fil a Ariane, with volunteers who could look up the needed acts.



Page one of Charles 1741 Marriage Contract: Courtesy Author

Of Charles's two contracts from France, we acquired the 1741 one first, and luck was on our side; Murillo Violette VFA# 1486, aka Junior, was taking an online course on how to read old French documents. This is known as Paleography, and his teacher, Beatrice Beaucourt (<https://www.beatricebeaucourt.com/>), allowed him to use Charles's 1741 document as part of the class. So, at the end of the class, Junior had a French transcription of the document he and his fellow students had worked on with help from the instructor. Charles's 1761 contract wasn't obtained until much later, and the class was long over. It turned out to be the harder one to read, and Murillo had to reach out to Professor Beaucourt for help, but there would be a charge for her services. Luck was on our side again when another association member who heard about the association's need to obtain a transcription graciously donated the funds.

Anne Morddel, who now lives in France and is the noted author of "The French Genealogy Blog" and has published some of her posts in book form, had this to say about French Marriage Contracts: "The marriage contract may be quite hard to find, however, for it will be in the notarial records held in the Departmental Archives. Notarial records are almost never microfilmed. One must determine which notaire wrote the contract. Then, one simply has to plough through all the notarial files and hope to come across the contract one is seeking, but if one does, it is genealogical pay dirt." And it was this genealogical pay dirt that we were seeking when we decided to find copies of our ancestor's marriage contracts.

More details of these discoveries, and others, are planned to be released soon in a research report titled Our Ancestral Homeland, which our historian has been working on.

IN MEMORY OF GUY DUBAY: Dec 3, 1942—Aug 13, 2024

By Rod Violette, past VFA Secretary

I first met Guy while working on a presentation I was about to give at the 2002 Violette Family Association reunion in Edmundston. I wanted the talk to relate to the Violette Family's history as we knew it then. I had learned of Guy's reputation as a historian and genealogist in the Upper St. John River Valley and sought his help.

He had turned a house in the middle of town that had been donated to him by a wealthy widow into a library, which became his hangout and refuge. That is where he wrote his biographies of historical people and events. He kept his genealogy records on 3"x 5" index cards. Several times when I dropped in to visit, expecting to stay only a few minutes, I ended up staying a couple of hours listening to Guy expound on history and genealogy. When Guy was a young man, he drove Father Langlois to all the parishes on both sides of the Upper St. John Valley River and the south side of the Lower St. Lawrence River to copy the records of Births, Deaths, and Marriages. Many of those records later showed up in Rita Lippe's book.

Guy was on the board of the Madawaska Historical Society. He helped construct the building and develop it into a museum, information center, and retail sales center. He worked many hours as a guide and salesperson and even cared for the landscaping. He was in close contact with the University of Maine in Orono and Fort Kent, consulting with them about the history of the area.

In 2009, David Violette, the president of the VFA, and I, the secretary, discussed the possibility of writing a book about the family history. We thought that we could pull it off if we could talk Guy into joining us with his knowledge and writing experience. Guy joined us. We titled the book "A Violette Family History." We each tackled the chapters we were most familiar with but stayed in close touch with each other. Our deadline was the VFA reunion at Van Buren in the summer of 2014. The publisher, Amazon, printed the book and delivered 100 copies directly to Van Buren.

Guy was also recognized by the Maine Legislature in 2013 for his contributions to history, genealogy and works.

The VFA wants to let the world know how vital Guy was to the Violette Family Association.

LEGISLATIVE RECORD - MAINE HOUSE, HLS 330, March 19, 2003, Recognizing Guy Dubay

Recognizing:

Guy Dubay, of Madawaska, who has been inducted into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. He is a well-known genealogist, respected historian, writer, international lecturer, educator and administrator. He has been active in many organizations, including historical societies, the Maine Humanities Council, the Maine League of Historical Societies, the Canadian-American Institute, the Acadian Festival Committee, the Stockholm Tri-cultural Committee and the Acadian Archives at the University of Maine at Fort Kent. Mr. Dubay's published works include the historical document "Chez Nous: the St. John Valley" and the play "Justice for All." He was also the presenter for MPBN's "Reflets et Lumières." We extend our congratulations and best wishes to him on receiving this prestigious honor;

(HLS 330)

Presented by Representative PARADIS of Frenchville.
Cosponsored by Representative JACKSON of Fort Kent,
Representative SMITH of Van Buren, Senator MARTIN of
Aroostook.

On OBJECTION of Representative SMITH of Van Buren, was
REMOVED from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the
Representative from Van Buren, Representative Smith.

Representative SMITH: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen
of the House. I am very pleased to speak on the Legislative
Sentiment in regard to Guy Dubay. Merci, M. le President,
j'appuie le sentiment législatif pour M. Guy Dubay. Mr. Dubay est
né à Van Buren and started very young writing and publishing his
stories. What was different about his stories is that he told the
story of his people, les Franco-Américains de notre belle Vallée
St-Jean. The stories were not whimsical and romantic, especially
when he dug deeper and deeper into the archives and over time
documented the incredible hardships faced by a hardworking,
faith-filled and resilient people. He understood well the concept
that "those who don't know history, will repeat the errors of the
past." His work, so well researched, involving weeks of works in
parts of the archives that had seen very little activity. In 1983,
our own State Museum used one of his books, *Chez Nous, the
St. John Valley Franco-Americans* as part of an exhibit
celebrating the diversity in Maine.

Intertwined with his research was his beloved educational
career. Monsieur Dubay did his undergraduate work in Fort Kent
and completed his Masters at UMO. He first distinguished
himself as a classroom teacher, principal, curriculum coordinator
and educational consultant. He's a college lecturer and has
presented his research at conferences all over the United States
and Canada.

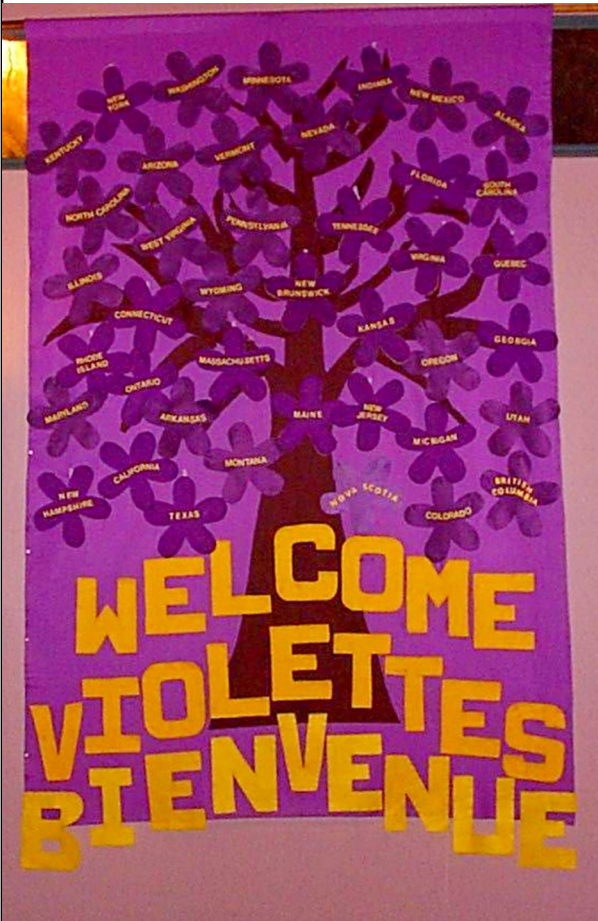
He's been a integral part of many cultural festivals from the
Allagash to the Acadian Festival and the tri-cultural celebrations
in the Stockholm, New Sweden area. He's also a brilliant
genealogist; year after year we see him holding court and helping
people reconnect their bloodline. There is no worthier life's work.

Monsieur Dubay, nous vous remercions et nous vous
félicitons de la part des citoyens du Maine.

Subsequently, PASSED and sent for concurrence.

WILL WE HAVE A REUNION IN 2026?

By Paul Violette (Treasurer) and Paul Bunnell (Immediate Past President)



The Violette Family Association reunions began in 1978 in Methuen, MA as a way to bring many Violettes together to talk about the family's genealogy researched by our founder Rita Violette Lippe. Her genealogy research revealed that present day Violettes originated in the United States and Canada from Francois Violet. On top of that, the previous year ABC television (when only three major stations existed) aired a mini-series called 'Roots' about African-American genealogy and all of a sudden learning about one's family history was exciting and a big topic of discussion. From 1978 on, VFA reunions were organized about every three years as interest grew in meeting new "relatives" and learning more about the Violette family history.

The last reunion of the Violette Family Association took place 10 years ago in 2014. Currently the Executive Board wants to know if there is any interest in beginning the reunions again and if a group of Violette members are willing to help organize one. The idea of gathering once every three years has been a goal for the Association and members always looked forward to those Reunions. For a variety of reasons, we have not been able to hold an in-person reunion since 2014.

The last two Reunions were held in Van Buren ME and we recognize that this is a long distance for many of our members to travel, especially if combined with air travel. However, a large number of members reside in other New England states, including Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire.

We're asking for assistance from our members to make the next reunion possible. You can help in these ways:

- Recommend a good location for us to hold our next reunion (ideally, in one of the New England states noted above, and/or
- If you reside in one of these states, would you consider volunteering to lead or participate in a Reunion Host Committee for a 2026 or later reunion?

Past reunion hosts have put together a Reunion Planning Guide. This document draws from our experience in planning and carrying out fourteen Violette Family Reunions in the past and can help the Host Committee hit the ground running. Themes could be Welcome Back Reunion; 50th Anniversary of the First Reunion; Celebrating Francois Violet; Acadian Heritage; etc. In 2008 the theme was the 30th Anniversary Reunion Celebration.

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

Help with mailing lists, newsletters, web site content, registration forms and data, and many more aspects are provided by Association officers in support of the Host Committee. The Association has funds necessary to do the setup and advance arrangements.

Please contact any Board member if you are interested in helping make our next reunion possible.