

Chapter 8 - The Violette Family, Part 2, Maurice Violette

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*(Note to the Reader: This is the first draft of a chapter that will be part of an upcoming book with a working title of A **Violette History**. The authors welcome comments, criticism, corrections, or additions to the text during its draft review period. Address comments directly using the emails above or through the feedback link at the web site for the Violette Family Association – www.VioletteFamily.org.)*

(Note to the Reader: This work was written by Maurice Violette and first published by Letter Systems, Inc, 52 Water Street, Hallowell ME, 1990. It is republished here by permission. The original publication was written in two parts, and this is Part 2; Part 1 is in the previous chapter. The editors have added some comments to help in understanding as well as to update the text with more recent information. The editors also added the maps.)

(Start of Maurice's text)

Charles Violet in Louisbourg, Isle Royale, New France. Circa 1749-1759.

The Saga of Charles Violet of Villejeus, France, Department of the Charente goes on. Charles left his mark in many places and little by little, we are piercing that genealogical curtain which contains so much colorful and historical information providing us with a better understanding of his life and times.

In the beginning, we were very “young” in our approach to find our ancestors and much speculation had to be employed in order to arrive at the real truth ... eventually. Still, we are seeking more and more information and as it comes in dribbles much of it is disconcerting. However, we should be very proud of our heritage as it is very unique ... filled with those events that leave us groping for more.

Several years ago, I spent a week at the Fortress of Louisbourg in league with Eric Krause, the Superintendent of Historical Records, who provided me with myriads of information concerning the days of the French pioneers who arrived there in June of 1749 ... including among them, Charles Violet of Rochefort-sur-Mer, Saintes, and Villejeus, France. Thus in order to provide a full picture of our ancestor, it is necessary to review the politics and the history of the area and the reasons which brought Charles, his wife Marie David, and his son, his only remaining child, Francois, as participants in the great struggle for the control of North America between France and England. Charles had lost all his other children as a result of epidemics and famine which was the scourge of France in those days.

War between England and France had gone on with brief intermissions from 1689 and 1712. The war of the Spanish Succession, in which Europe formed a coalition to resist the

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pretension of the Great Louis, had left France exhausted. Many treaties, signed at Utrecht, settled the terms of the peace, but certain clauses in the one between France and England alone concern this narrative. It was agreed that the French should evacuate Placentia, Terre Neuve (Newfoundland), unhappily with indeterminate limits, it should be yielded to England, but that France should hold with full sovereignty the islands lying in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and its outlets. These included St. Jean (P.E.I.) and Cape Breton. (*Ed note: Map 1 below shows the extent of French holdings in North America around 1750 and depicts the status reported in Maurice's text. Note that while France retains a strong presence in the interior, Britain gained a stronghold around the Gulf of St. Lawrence. But France still retained Cape Breton Island, where Louisbourg is located, and other small islands in the Gulf.*)



Map 1: North American holdings around 1750 (from *Nouvelle-France map-en.svg*. *Wikimedia Commons*.)

But in order to complete the history about the “life and times” of Charles in Louisbourg, I had to first go back to 1713 and even before that to 1613 when Louisbourg was known as “Le Port des Anglois.” This information is contained in Part I of the Violette Family History. (*Ed note: See Chapter 7 in our work*) It is included as the forerunner of this excerpt.

Picture world powers competing for supremacy in trade, commerce and world wide recognition as the major powers, Spain, France, England and the Dutch were all vying for that positioning and were making bridgeheads in the New World, especially in the northern

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hemisphere. In the New World, the trade of such importance was that of the North Atlantic fisheries. It had been rigorously followed, at all events, from the beginning of the Sixteenth Century as Portuguese, Basque from the Spanish side, those in their French ports, Bayonne and St. Jean de Lus the fishermen of the Bordeaux, of Normandy, as well as the West Country English, visited the teeming waters of the "Western Coasts" of the North Atlantic. New England too, about the mid-Seventeenth Century, turned with far reaching affect on her people, from the demoralizing fur trade. Thus the scene was set for the upheavals which would lead to the conquest of Canada. The English controlled Halifax ... the French, Cape Breton Island (Isle Royale) and Terre Neuve (Newfoundland) ... the Spanish were ensconced in Sydney known as "Le Baie de Espagnols".

During this period, the Indians were used by both the British and French alike to scour and raid and terrorize as far South as the Virginias and the Ohio territories in the West. The Treaty of Utrecht (1713) established rights for the individual powers but mainly for the French and English. Finally the French gave up Newfoundland, then took control of Cape Breton Island. The French and Indian Wars provided the catalyst that vaulted the French and English into a final confrontation which would be made in favor of the English in 1758.

Harassment of British shipping by the dominating position of the French who controlled access to the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Indian massacres against the English, which directly affected the New England Colonies to the South, provided the incentive for Governor Shirley of Massachusetts to appoint Colonel William Pepperell of Kittery and Portsmouth to lead an army and an armada of ships to attack and capture the city of Louisbourg in 1744.

Although Newfoundland and Nova Scotia were in the hands of the British, French Cape Breton was a sentinel in the gateway of the St. Lawrence through which passed the traffic of Canada ... through which in event of new hostilities, attack on that colony would be made. The value of Cape Breton as a naval base to protect Canada and French commerce in the Western Ocean is so obvious that we need not go further in this area.

From 1713 to 1745, conditions in Louisbourg were very intermingled with corruption of officials and the politics of France. Bickering in the hierarchy prevented the full and proper defense to be provided to the city. However, irrespective of the many pitfalls Louisbourg became in 1726, with a population of 951, the major place of the colony.

The climate of Louisbourg was very dreary and disappointing. There are weeks in Autumn when a dull earth meets a leaden sea. In Winter, the ground is white and the sea is somber. In the Spring, the sea is white and glistening with drift ice and the land is dreary and dead of vegetation. In early Summer, sea and land are dank with fog and at any time occur gales of wind which are always blustering and often destructive.

The ocean was the only highway of important news. On it, mysterious sails appeared in the offing and pirates plundered. Each ship which worked in from its horizon might bring tidings of the adventure or of consequence to the onlooker or the community. With such prospect, life might be hopeless but it could not be permanently dull.

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Thus with the encouragement from Governor Shirley of Massachusetts, the declaration of war with England was made on March 18, 1744, and expedited to Louisbourg by a merchant vessel from St. Malo which arrived on May 3rd of that year. As a result, privateering was encouraged against the English but still the New Englanders captured town after town. Canseau (Canso) was the first to fall. . .thence Annapolis. On the 17th of June 1745, Louisbourg surrendered to the New Englanders and over 2000 inhabitants of Louisbourg were prepared to be expelled to France aboard eleven ships. The French troops were allowed to retain their weapons and marched out of the city in an orderly and military fashion.

Now, General, Pepperell stayed in Louisbourg until the Spring of 1746. During this period his troops became dissatisfied with the conditions and many wanted to return to their homes. By September of that year, they were at a point of mutiny. Disease ran rampant and of epidemic proportions. The desperate situation was accentuated by the death of 890 men during the Winter of 1747 between December and April and due to the inclement weather, the living and the dead existed together. Local custom of billeting soldiers contributed to these epidemics as they slept two to a bunk and in some cases a dozen or more used one long, continuous bunk. It was probably such an epidemic of influenza, typhus, or typhoid which caused the demise of Marie David in 1751. (*Ed note: Marie David was the wife of Charles and had come from France with him in 1745*) The community was restricted in growing their own food which had to be mostly imported and many lacked proper diet which consisted mostly of fish.

The Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle was signed on October 18, 1748 which returned the Cape Breton Island to France. This disappointed Governor Shirley bitterly as it denied the English from establishing the seat of the Colony which had been the goal of the New Englanders earlier. Thus we have now reached the point in time where Charles will enter and join in the historical events of the period with Marie David and son Francois (*Ed note: And stepson Alexis Hilaret*).

In Part I we have accounted for the reason Charles brought his family to the New World and how the tragic events of the day compounded just about everyone of his efforts to obtain the good life. (*Ed note: See also Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7 in this work.*)

The former inhabitants of Louisbourg were recalled and as well, new ones were recruited from Canada and France. They found the houses in poor condition as but few of them had been repaired by the British during their occupation. The Governor of Louisbourg, Francois Bigot, provided 200 cows for distribution among the people, including Charles, and for two years they were supplied with rations from the king's stores. The newcomers were greeted by the 94 Frenchmen who had remained under British rule during the occupation. However, the return of Louisbourg to the French did not stop the hostilities.

The order of the day was to continue the harassment of the British, repel force by force, Halifax to be attacked by Indians but to do so covertly. Acadians were encouraged to settle on the Isle of St. Jean (P.E.I) ... the English replied in kind and brought against them as many

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indiscreet obstacles as could be done without compromise and to take steps to protect against them.

Development to the West in the Ohio territories had a direct bearing on the plight of the French in Louisbourg ... the defeat of Lt. George Washington at Fort Necessity by the French (as retaliation for Washington's ambush and massacre of French troops earlier) provided the spark to encourage the English and the New Englanders to remove the French once and for all and to wrestle control from them in the north especially in Louisbourg and Quebec. *(Ed note: Refer to Map 1 to see the relationship between New England and New France. Though the Manifest Destiny concept was not formalized for another 75 years or so, even in the times reported here many New Englanders did not want to be hemmed in to the Atlantic coastal regions of the huge continent. In the times reported here New England was still a group of British colonies and not independent.)* General Braddock returned to the American continent with two regiments and the French were to be driven from the North American continent.

Meanwhile in Louisbourg, Charles and wife, Marie David, and son Francois (*Ed note: and stepson Alexis*) tried to arrange their lives in the best possible manner. Charles' presence was made possible by the fact that his trade was that of a roofer and just about every building standing in the city required repair especially the roofs. Much of this period has been covered in Part I of the History of the Violettes preceding this addendum. (*Ed note: Chapter 7 in this work*) Suffice it to say that Charles had a most difficult time to make ends meet in as much as he was not a master roofer as yet and found it necessary to work for others. Income must have been very limited due to the adverse weather and short roofing season of the area. Although we do not know the exact location of his living quarters, the court of Louisbourg failed to indicate it in any of his court proceedings before 1755. This can be assumed that Charles lived in a more wanting area of Louisbourg and had not reached a level of economic success. Please review Part I of the family history which contains Charles' attempt to improve his lot petitioning for bankruptcy in the Royal Court. (See Appendix I) (*Ed note: Found in Chapter 7 in this work.*)

J.S. McLennan, author of the book LOUISBOURG writes on page 187: "The transfer of Isle Royale and its dependencies to France had been made without difficulty. Charles des Herbiers, Sieur de la Raliere, a naval captain of distinction, was chosen as French Commissioner and Governor. He had left France with the men-of-war Tigre and Intrepide, which convoyed transports from Rochefort-sur-Mer carrying about five hundred troops from Isle de Rhe, an island off the coast of LaRochele and civilians from the Charente Maritime Department for Isle Royale. Charles, Marie David and son, Francois were aboard the Intrepide registered under 3rd Class Passengers. The French Flag replaced that of England over the Citadel and Batteries of Louisbourg and the English forces withdrew to Halifax.

Charles did not find the streets paved with gold and like all had to face the rigors and uncertainties of the period. Bigot, the Intendant for Governor of New France, had a reputation of being very harsh towards the British and he made everyone who resided or remained in New France sign an oath of allegiance to the King of France ... otherwise he would deport

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them. Expulsion was not invented by the British who deported the Acadians from the land as repayment in kind.

A search of Louisbourg records did not reveal much information about Charles and his family from 1749 through July of 1753 with the exception of his petition to the Royal Court to “give” Francois and stepson, Alexis Hilaret, to his “friends and neighbors” in June of 1751 following the death of Marie David and to obtain a ruling in bankruptcy.

According to the inventory of his personal effects at the time of his appearance in Court, Charles was about the poorest man in Louisbourg. (*Ed note: See Chapter 7 for the listing of the inventory.*) His furniture was badly deteriorated to almost the status of junk. The few tools were well worn and from the records, he was penniless as he petitioned the Royal Court to pay him the 150 pounds the King of France had promised him.

One can adduce any interpretation as one may desire from this but in the final analysis we find that Charles is for all legal purposes divesting himself of the two children as the judgement of the Magistrate has so specifically appointed the “friends and neighbors” as subrogate guardians of both Alexis Hilaret and of Francois Violet. However, I might add one statement to this session of the court which has been covered in Part I (*Ed note: Chapter 7 in this work*), as to why the Distrainer of the King, Lareher, ruled as he did. In the final judgement, he noted that all participants had signed the oath to carry out the dictates of the court ... all signed but Charles and this was pointed out by Mayreig, the Counsellor for the King, Isle Royale, and the Prosecutor for the King who wrote: “We have received their oath to the case as required by these proceedings and in their souls and conscience will and faithfully fulfill the duties of their said charge. . . which the said Violet did not do (sign the oath) provided at this session of this inquest.”

In view of the fact Charles did not sign the oath, Lareher had no other choice but to assign the two children to them who did sign the oath. By the fact he was in court in petition for bankruptcy, we can assume that Charles owed a lot of money. . that Jauvain and Senat cancelled Charles’ debt and in return Alexis Hilaret and Francois Violet were thus placed in their charge as collateral for repayment by Charles. This was a common practice during colonial days. By this action, Charles was now free to devote his personal life to new approaches. Nowhere could I find that Charles ever repaid his creditors nor that the two children had ever been relieved, officially, of their obligation to “serve” their subrogate guardians. Thus from this point forward, we can no longer find any information concerning Francois ... Alexis Hilaret does surface in 1753 as the Godfather of Charles’ second child, Marie Anne. However, Francois is missing. It would have been natural, I feel, for him to have become a Godfather to one of the other two children born in 1755 and in 1756 had he been in Louisbourg. No such event occurred.

Four years after his arrival in Louisbourg, we find Charles in court again and in the ensuing years, he would be there quite a number of times for he had now become a Master Roofer and was thus self-employed in contracting work for the people of Louisbourg.

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July 3, 1753. Charles has an audience with the Magistrate of Louisbourg in which he requests that Pierre Santier have installed by carpenters a part of the roof with new boards still to be covered in order to prepare the roof properly to receive slate shingles. The Magistrate gave Sentier 24 hours to do so. (Santier, according to a rental contract in 1755 would become Charles' neighbor).

August 21, 1754. In another case, Charles was a party to the event when a resident of the town asked the court to force a landlord to install a new roof. Charles was the contractor.

January 14, 1755. We find Charles in court once more. This time he is in the process of leasing a home on Rue D'Orleans (about one block away for the Citadel). This indicates that he is now a successful business man in Louisbourg and the property is needed for him to expand in business in the form of a boutique as well as to rent an apartment in keeping with his new status. The contract reads as follows, in French, and taken from the script retains the colorful grammar then in use. Translating into English would not do justice to the intent and meaning of the various aspect of the lease.

*"VIOLETTE, Charles (apparently name corruption by Le Gras)
14 Janvier 1755, AFO G3, carton 2044, no. 6 (Archives of Louisbourg) Bail (lease) a loyer dune maison. Allain Le Gras a Charles Violette.*

Nous allain Le Gras habitant de Cette Ville Et Charles Viollette maistre Couvreur Et Marchand ausy demeurant En Cette Ville sommes Convenus de Ce qui Suit Scavoir que moy allain Le gras ay par les present Loue Et afferrn au dit Viollette Le bout de ma maison quo jocupe Se Consistant En une grande Cave Situee Sous le grand Corps de la ditte ma/son Avec Celle Sous le Cuisine du mesme bout Vers M. Santier, plus la boutique, Salle, Cuisines, Cabanneau, au bout, Cornmoditte de Court Et fontaine, Latrinne, La Chambre Sur la Salle, Le Grenier Sur la ditto Chambres, ainsy que Celluy de Sur La Cuissine, generalement la moitie de la maison Le bout Ver le dit Santier a la Reserve do la Chambre Et Grennier a Lempost (?) dicelle quocupe Monsieur badesse La quelle nest point antandu (?) du presant marche, 1 souffrira Monsieur Badesse sier son bois a feu dans le Court, mesme passage de fontaine Et Latrinne, La dit loyer Convenu pour le temps Et Espace de sinq annee parfaite Eta Complice qui commenceront le dishuittome du presantmois, Etfinirons a pareil jour Et La ditSieur Viollette Soblige paier au dit La gras par Chaquon an La Somme do Six Cents Vingt Et sinq Livres payable En quatre Cartiers qui Est de trois mois En trois mois, Se montant a la Somme de Cent cinquante Et Six Livres sinq Sols, pour quelle Est Promaitant Remettre a ditto maison avec ses apartments, Sans Degradation, mesme no tireraucune (bords fly Cloux, (mises ?) pour suspendre des marchandises dautant que le ditte Le gras Los Luy Laissera de a mesme fasson ainay que les bords de boutique deux armoires Vitres deux tables do boutiques Etableau une Clochette En Letat quil Est presentement la maison Vitree suivant La detail que nous En feron Le jour do son Entree au dos du presant ... (la maison est situe sur la Rue D'Orleans)"

It appears that Charles has at this point expanded his role as a businessman in the City of Louisbourg in which he now is the owner of a "boutique" and has made arrangements with

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Monsieur Le Gras to rearrange it into a store or place in which he can display his wares for sale. Boutique as used in French can mean many things. A dress Shop. A frivolous boutique which would involve items used for almost anything from knitting needles and cloth goods, or even a place of hardware sales. It would seem natural that his trade as a Master Roofer would not require the use of a display to sell his trade. However, the key word in the lease "to hang his merchandise" does indicate that the boutique must have been for use as a Dress Shop and possibly accessories. Marie Anne Sudois apparently belonged to a well-to-do family in LaRochelle who were engaged in the manufacture of Carriages and would have a definite knowledge of styles and must have been a qualified seamstress. One must also consider the adverse weather condition of Louisbourg located on a promontory extending out into the sea guarding the St. Lawrence Seaway, in a natural breezeway causing unpredictable and unnatural storms made roofing a very short season at best. A boutique would have compensated to fill the gaps when work in the open was impossible.

Earlier in 1754, Charles was again in court for having assaulted a customer. It seems a contract fell through and Charles lost the job. He had delivered all the materials for the work to the job site and had gone back to pick up his supplies and tools. It is assumed this would be slates delivered earlier and scaffolding. The tenant came out of the house and forbade Charles to remove the materials. He physically assailed Charles, knocking him to the ground. Charles got up and took a two by four piece of lumber and promptly clobbered the tenant thereby disposing him from discussing the deal any longer. Charles removed his materials and the court ruled in his favor in this case. We can conclude that Charles, like all Violettes, did not take a back seat to anyone ... he was apparently able to fend for himself quite well.

July 14, 1766. (*Ed note: Probably 1756*) Charles is again in court sued by Pierre Letourneur Le Lorembec in that Charles abandoned a half-completed roof and thus by this action has caused the roof to rot completely. I did not have time to find out the rest as reading old script can be mind boggling and eye blinding as this was a lengthy case. However, Charles did not lose too much from this episode. This delay in completing the job might have been caused by inclement weather and thus an "Act of God."

May 6 and 9, 1757. Charles is suing a German resident of Louisbourg for having killed his cow according to his allegations. You will remember that Francois Bigot, the Intendant of New France, had given all the newcomers to Louisbourg in 1749 a cow to help them feed their children. The case was resolved and the German, Benedit Moyhun, was acquitted from any such action. It seems that the cow was in foal and the German neighbor had attempted to help the cow but it died in the birth of a calf which survived.

As Charles and his family forged ahead and were prospering, war was declared in 1756 and thus the blockade of the Fortress of Louisbourg by the British began and would last until the fall of the city in 1758. The siege did not cause much concern to the inhabitants of Louisbourg in the beginning because there was enough food to feed the city for two years. Life continued. The main fare was codfish and the normal pasttime was gambling and drinking, especially by the Army. However by 1757, time took its toll and the food supply began to

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dwindle. Famine began. One is appraised that there was a great deal of corruption in the local government. As the Siege of Louisbourg has been well covered in Part I (*Ed note: See our Chapter 7*), this narrative will move ahead to 1758.

After the surrender of Louisbourg in 1758, the British occupied the city. General Wolfe carried out his pledge to reduce Louisbourg to rubble and after the expulsion of all the inhabitants, he began his destruction. Every building or what was left of them were put to the torch, burned and levelled to the ground in 1760.

During the siege, the British lost 195 men but the French lost much more ... between 700 and 800 perished counting civilians as well mostly due to the merciless pounding of the city by a bombardment of the city from the English fleet. The actual casualties were never tabulated nor ascertained as no such list was ever found and no funeral service was held for the dead. There are monuments in the newer cemetery located on the Southern tip of Louisbourg on a point of land extending into the ocean, commemorating the dead from the siege of Louisbourg. A comment about the cemeteries. There are two of them. The old sits next to the demolished home of the Town's Executioner and contains the dead of Louisbourg up through 1744 and the new one honors the dead after that date. They are overgrown with thick grass and wild flowers. The grass resembles that found near salt water sand dunes. There are very few monuments as the original markers undoubtedly made of wood and have long ago deteriorated due to the adverse weather conditions. As one walks through these areas especially on a rainy day with the wind blowing in from the sea, an eerie feeling comes over you as the fog and the heavy clouds blot out the sun and the visibility becomes that of late twilight.

When I arrived around noon, there were a few tourists pouring over the remains but without realizing it, the rain had increased and the wind was much stronger and all the tourists were now gone. It was two o'clock in the afternoon but it looked and felt as if it was nine o'clock in the evening. By now the long grass tugged at my feet as if trying to hold me back. I felt that something or someone wanted me to stay and a feeling of almost panic overtook me. I knew that under my feet in those depressed and sunken graves rested Marie David and Charles' three children by a second marriage. (*Ed note: Probably Maurice was referring to Therese, born 1752; Hierome, born 1753; and Marie Anne, born 1755*) The cold rain pelted down on me and I began to run up Rue D'Orleans towards the Citadel. I was the only "tourist" left in the entire city as the rain had discouraged all including the "soldiers" and "inhabitants" and the busses had stopped running and thus had to find my way back to the Administration Building. My sojourn and search of records in the archives had kept me too busy to visit the ruins. Having spent so much time alone with the old records, the ghosts of Louisbourg had affected my mind!

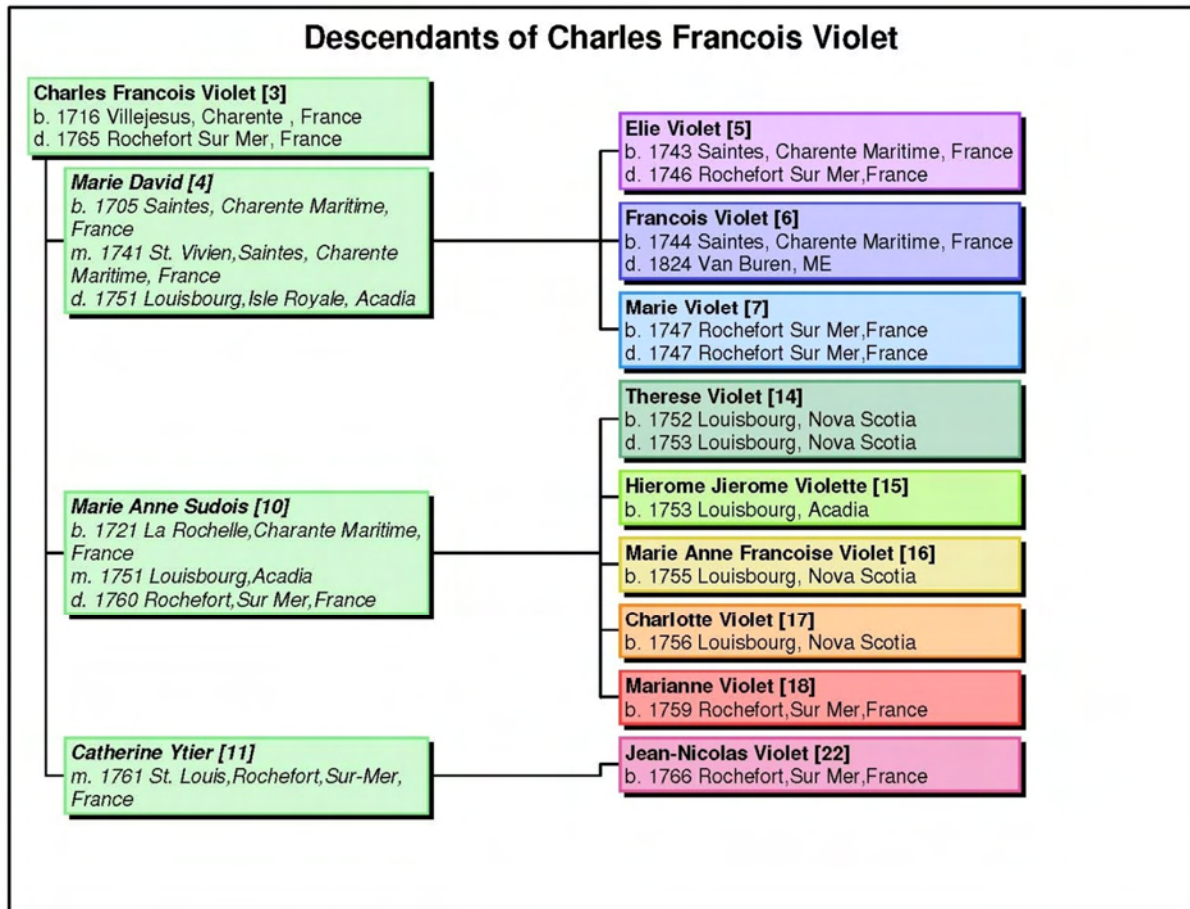
I ran through a deserted city truly in panic? I felt I were in a Twilight Zone where unknown tentacles were pulling and calling me back. I had been isolated too long with the microfilm machine. Running through the deserted city past the rubble of the destroyed convent of Notre Dame located across the street from the hospital where Charles house is to be found,

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I sensed an outcry from those who lay beneath the surface for compassion, sympathy and solace ... I felt invisible hands tugging at my legs in a gesture that I should not leave. Having stood there in the cemetery with the rain beating down on me from the sea, the roar of the pounding surf gave me time to reflect and to ponder about the dead. I was in total communion with them and I was scared. I was alone! A comment about the cemeteries. They are situated about thirty feet from the ocean. Every year, much topsoil is eroded by the pounding waves. The dead of Louisbourg throughout history were buried only two to three feet below the surface because of the saturation of the land from the sea. During violent storms, the area has been compromised and periodically human bones have been found.

My search of the archives of the Fortress of Louisbourg from 1756, the year after the war was declared, through 1759 for traces of Charles' children proved fruitless. None could be found except for birth records. The French kept meticulous records. Each sailing list was scrutinized for traces of Francois and Alexis as well. None was found. Charles and Marie Ann Sudois did negotiate to return to LaRochelle and left Louisbourg in December of 1759 without the children. *(Ed note: We have since learned that Charles and Marie were deported from Louisbourg in 1758 along with the other French and returned to France in French ships. Also, Maurice mentioned above that three children were buried in the cemetery at Louisbourg but they also had a fourth born in Louisbourg – Charlotte, in 1756. Another child, Marianne, was recorded born in Rochefort December 9, 1759. See chart that follows.)*

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(Ed note: The chart above shows the families of Charles Violet. At the time of the account in this chapter he had not yet married Catherine Ytier and all of his children with Marie David and Marie Anne Sudois except Marianne had been born. Our next chapter will describe Charles's return to France and what happened there.)

Eric Krause, Superintendent of Historical Records for the Fortress of Louisbourg agreed with me that the children must have perished during the bombardment of Louisbourg as Charles' house, located near the Citadel was in the immediate range of fire from the British. It was located next to the hospital which received the first hits. No record was found anywhere of any mass burials and it is quite possible that some of the dead still remain in the rubble of what was once Louisbourg. No funeral record for those who died during bombardment can be found as the Chapel Saint Louis in the Citadel was completely destroyed during the siege.

It is a great feat of construction that the Canadian Government was able to reconstruct over 20% of the Citadel and nearby Port area to scale and the city today comes to life every Summer as "French" soldiers occupy the Fortress and many citizens from nearby modern Louisbourg dress in the style of 1744 when the city capitulated to the New Englanders. The descendants of Charles and Francois have a stake in this city and we should all take the time to visit Louisbourg, find the hospital on Rue D'Orleans and the lot next to it on the Citadel side of the hospital was the house belonging to Allain Le Gras from whom Charles leased his

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boutique. Only the Foundation walls remain and have been filled with rubble from the devastation of the city in 1760. The reconstruction of the city, unfortunately, stopped but a short distance from the Le Gras home.

Today the ruins of Louisbourg are completely overrun by the Angelique plant. The plant is to be found throughout the old city, modern Louisbourg, and halfway to Sydney. It grows wild, impossible to stop, and it is cursed by the local inhabitants which is made up mostly of descendants from Scotland who have settled the area. The origin of the plant, according to Eric Krause, was from a French resident of Louisbourg during the siege. He had used the plant to provide an improved taste for his gin. After the fall of Louisbourg, the plant was allowed to propagate and it did because the area was left unattended for so many years. The plant tentacles reached out and covered every inch of the city with thick stems and flowers about three feet high everywhere you look. This seems to be fitting and poetic justice for the suffering of the inhabitants of old Louisbourg who withstood so much from the British. The Angelique plant stands as a reminder that Angels still watch over the city.

Many of us sometime wonder just what role Charles might have played during the battle for Louisbourg. McLennon tells us that all able bodied men participated in the defense of the city ... be it a member of the Home Militia, as Damage Control people who tried to repair damage caused by bombs and the shelling by the British, or to render and provide health and comfort for the wounded or injured. Charles was there and thus did participate in the Damage Control group. We can state with certainty that one of our ancestors did participate in the struggle between France and England for control of North America.

Charles Violet was a most interesting individual. It was rather educational to learn how this man could circumvent problems. He never ceases to amaze me in his wheeling and dealing and his mode of life. He was certainly ahead of his time as he seemed to live his Eighteenth Century under the accepted life style of the Twentieth Century. He has provided for us a most interesting legacy and a challenge to discover more if it can be found. Most of all, be very proud of your heritage. . . don't be afraid to acclaim it to the world because it is colorful, full of mystery, of intrigue, and with the aspect that in time, all will be resolved. We are the envy of all our Acadian friends!

Be proud of Villejesus! The final word is not in as yet as to the actual origin of the Violet/Viollet/Violettes. Some say it is Fontenille but records fail to provide the information although the Viollets of that town outnumber the Viollets of Villejesus. (*Ed note: Subsequent research has found documents reported in earlier chapters that show Villejésus was the place of origin of the family.*) Maire Montussac of the Commune of Villejesus told me that the commune was among the first Christian settlements in France during the days of the Romans. We don't go back that far but isn't it great that we have a connection to the beginning of Christianity. Think about that!

In France, a book written by Chateaubriand finds a M. Violet who plays a pocket violin and is the "maitre de danse" for the Iroquois Indians. He is reported to have served with the troops of Rochambeau during the war for U.S. Independence at Yorktown. There is no first

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name and research in France should provide the answer ... who knows, probably one of Francois' Sons or a Violet conscripted from the Charente — his future is unknown. Under Rochambeau, he was a kitchen helper. More later. (*Ed note: This turned out to be the end of Maurice's published writings.*)

(End of Maurice's text)