

Chapter 9 - Charles, Back to France

Time Span: 1758-1760

Guy Dubay, Madawaska ME, info@clubfrancais.org , VFA #892

David A. Violette, Phoenix AZ, David@Violette.com , VFA #621

Rod Violette, Lincoln CA, rviolette@att.net , VFA #12

*(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.)*

Charles may have been glad to leave the New World behind, after all the troubles he had there! He came to Louisbourg with a wife and two children, his wife died while there, he had to declare bankruptcy when his business failed, and as part of his bankruptcy he had to assign his children to his creditors. He did remarry within a month after Marie David Violet died, this time to Marie Anne Sudois. This second Marie appears to have been a fairly wealthy woman.

Marie Anne Sudois was born in La Rochelle, France, on November 30, 1721. We do not know how and why and when she came to Louisbourg. She was 29 years old when she married Charles on June 29, 1751 and Charles was 35. Charles and Marie Anne Sudois had four children born in Louisbourg: Therese, April 22, 1752; Hierome, June 17, 1753; Marie Anne Francoise, August 21, 1755; and Charlotte, October 10, 1756. Therese died in Louisbourg January 31, 1753; she was only eight months old.

But then another blow struck with the fall of Louisbourg to the British in July 1758. All French occupants were transported to France. We know the last ship left Louisbourg at the end of September 1758, so it is fair to say that Charles and his second wife Marie Anne Sudois arrived at La Rochelle in the fall of that year. No children were listed on the manifest, so we are left to speculate what happened to Charles' children from his marriage to Marie Anne Sudois. We know from Louisbourg records that Therese was born and died in Louisbourg. But what happened to Hierome, Marie Anne Francoise, and Charlotte? There is no record of them arriving in La Rochelle nor is there any subsequent record of them in France.

We know from Rita Lippe's book that Alexis Hilaret married Cecile Caissie on July 2, 1765 in Cayenne, West Indies. Alexis was the natural son of Marie David and was adopted by Charles. We'll drop Alexis from our story at this point and, of course, we'll tell no more about our "Mémère" Marie David Violet except to thank her for our heritage.

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And we know of course that François next showed up in New Brunswick at Hammond River. We'll be hearing much more about our ancestor François in the next several chapters of this book.

Louisbourg did not fall peacefully, and Maurice Violette speculated that the others may have been killed in the bombardment during the siege by the British. The following is an excerpt from Maurice Violette's history P.15.

“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 La Rochelle 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.)

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.”

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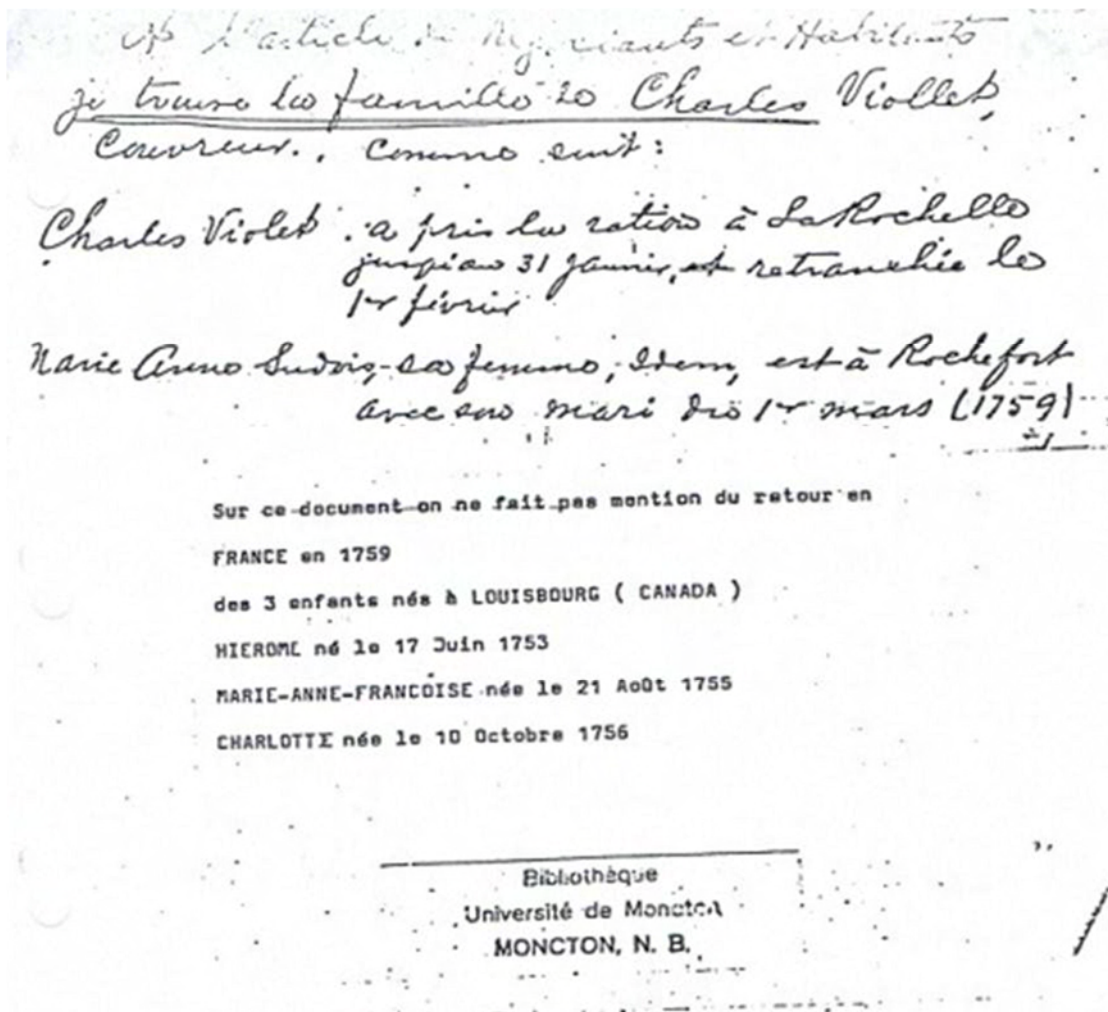
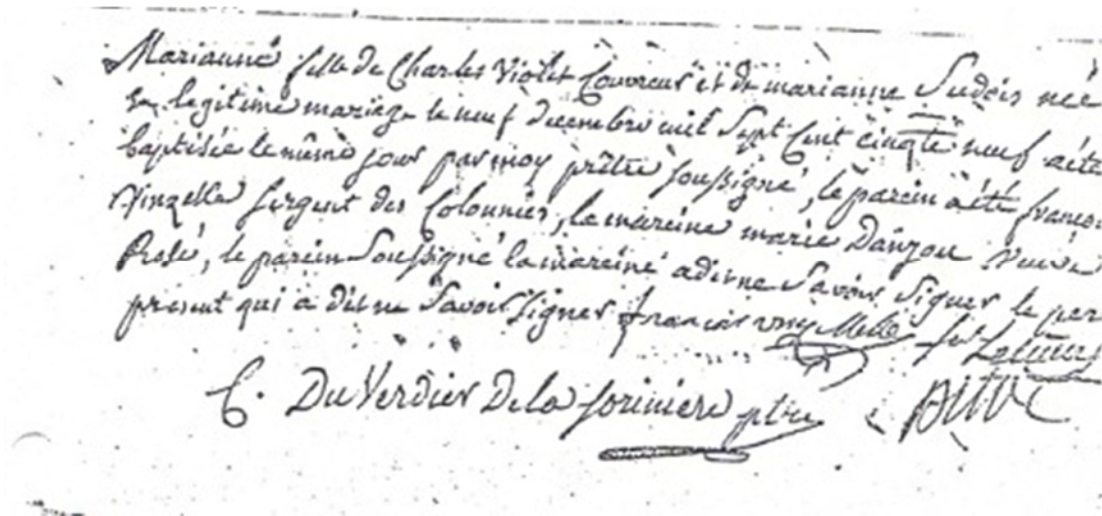


Figure 1: Research on Charles' return to France.

And, our poor Charles did not leave his trials and tribulations in Louisbourg as misfortune followed him back to France.

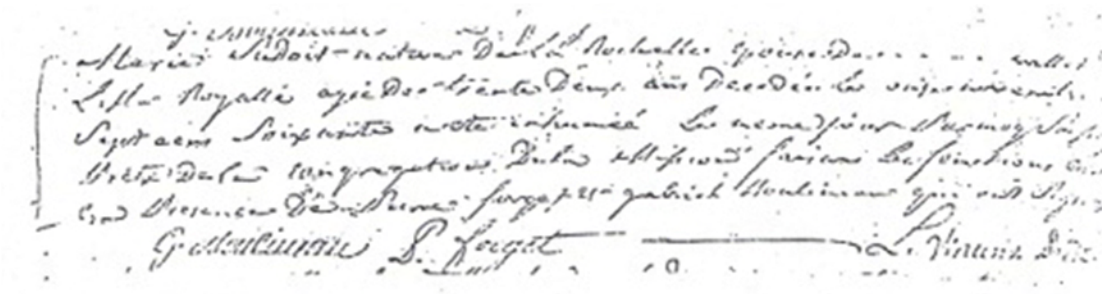
Shortly after arriving in La Rochelle, Charles moved his family to Rochefort where he had lived prior to sailing for Louisbourg. On December 9, 1759, Marie Anne Sudois had her fifth child, Marianne. Less than one year later on November 16, 1760 Marie Anne Sudois died, leaving Charles once again with young children.

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Marianne fille de Charles Violet Couvreur et de Marianne Sudois née
en légitime mariage le neuf Décembre mil Sept cent cinquante neuf a été
baptisée le même jour par moy prêtre sousigné, le parrain a été François
Vinzelle Sergent des Colonies, la marraine Marie Danjou veuve
Rose, le parrain sousigné la marraine a dit ne s'avoir signer le per
présent qui a dit ne s'avoir signer François Vinzelle
C. Du Verdier De la première plie

Figure 2: Birth record for Marianne Violet. “Marianne, daughter of Charles Violet, roofer, and of Marianne Sudois, born of a legitimate marriage on 9 December 1759 and baptized the same day by me, priest undersigned, the godfather was Francois Vinzelle, Sergeant of the Colonies, the godmother Marie Danjou, widow Rose, the godfather undersigned, the godmother said could not sign, the father present who said he did not know how to write.” (Signatures follow.)

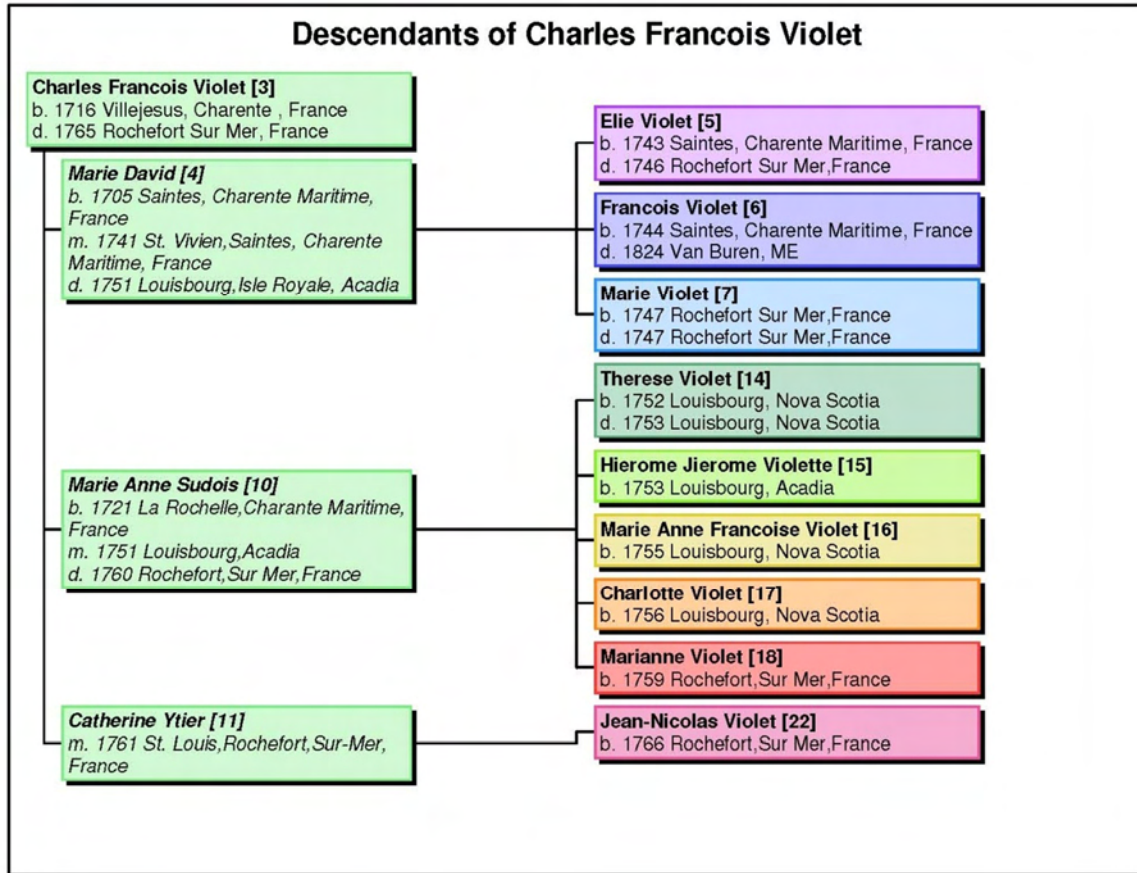


Marie Sudois-nature de La Rochelle épouse de Charles Violet
L'He Royale âgée de trente deux ans Decedée le seize Novembre
Sept cent soixante six a été inhumée le même jour par moy prêtre
Baptiste de la Congrégation de la Mission sousigné, en la présence de
Pierre Forget et Gabriel Moulineau qui ont signé
Godolucum S. Forget L. Vinzelle

Figure 3: Death record for Marie Sudois Violet. “Marie Sudoit, born in La Rochelle, spouse of Charles Violet of the Ile Royale 32 years old, died the 16th of November 1760 and was buried the same day by me the undersigned priest of the congregation of the mission performing church functions, in the presence of Pierre Forget and Gabriel Moulineau, who have signed.” (Signatures follow)

Charles married for the third time, on April 13, 1761 to Catherine Ytier, the widow of Jean Poinsot. There was a son Jean-Nicolas born of this marriage on January 8, 1766. Unfortunately, Charles died on November 13, 1765, two months prior to the birth of his son, leaving Catherine Ytier a widow. So, we now have all the people in Charles' genealogy on stage, and the chart that follows is complete.

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*L'an mil Sept Cents. Soixante une apres la publication de trois bans de mariages
faite en cette paroissee les fiancés les faittes hier les regles et ordonnances
observees apres avoir receu le consentement mutuel des parties ont été
mariez par nous prestre de la Congregation de la mission faisant la fonction
Curial de Soulzigney Charles Violet Journalier demeurant en cette ville
veuf de Marie Anne Sudois d'une part et Catherine Ytier veuve de Jean
Poinsoit menuisier demeurant aussi en cette ville d'autre part en presence
de Silveire Durand Journalier de Langalange aussi Journalier de Francois
renaud, de Pierre duverge de Marie Bayard de Margueritte Marie et de
Marie Anne Lict les uns ont signé avec nous les autres le pour et
le pour ont déclaré ne savoir signer Marie Bayard
Marianne Violet Francois Violet
rapprochez les deux mots en dessus
le prestre*

Figure 4: Marriage record, Charles Violet and Catherine Ytier. “The year 1771, the 13th of April, after the publication of three banns of marriage made in this parish, the fiancées made yesterday, the rules and laws observed after having received the mutual consent of the parties were married by us, priest of the congregation of the

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mission doing the curatorial duties, undersigned, Charles Violet, journeyman, living in this city, widower of Marie Anne Sudois, the first party, and Catherine Ytier, widow of Jean Poinsoit, carpenter, also living in this city, the other party, in the presence of Hilaire Durand, journeyman, of Jean Galange, also a journeyman, of Francois Renaud, of Pierre Duverge, of Marie Bayard, of Margueritte Marie, and of Marianne Liet, the ones who signed with us, the others, the husband and wife have said they do not know how to write.” (Signatures follow)

Handwritten text in French, likely a birth record. The text is written in cursive and includes the name "Jean Nicolas" and the date "le huit janvier mil sept cent soixante six". There are several signatures at the bottom of the document.

Figure 5: Birth record of Jean Nicholas Violet. “Jean Nicolas, legitimate son of Charles Violette and of Catherine Estie, was born the 8th of January 1766 and was baptized by us the same day, priest of the mission, doing curatorial duties, has for godfather, Jean Giraud, Master Carpentier, and for godmother Anne Gautreau, the godmother having declared she did not know how to sign, the godfather having signed with us.” (Signatures follow)

Handwritten text in French, likely a death record. The text is written in cursive and includes the name "Charles violet" and the date "le treize novembre mil sept cent soixante cinq". There are several signatures at the bottom of the document.

Figure 6: Death record for Charles Violet. “Charles Violet, roofer, 46 years old, died the 13th of November 1765, and was buried the following day by me undersigned priest of the congregation of the mission doing curatorial duties in the presence of the undersigned.” (Signatures follow)

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We can find no records subsequent to the death of Charles with regard to his heirs. So, the chapter on Charles' life comes to a close. Perhaps sometime in the future, his heirs, if any, will make contact with their North American cousins.