

## Chapter 10 - Some Violette Legends – Some Speculations

Guy Dubay, Madawaska ME, [info@clubfrancais.org](mailto:info@clubfrancais.org)  
Rod Violette, Lincoln CA, [rviolette@att.net](mailto:rviolette@att.net)  
David A. Violette, Phoenix AZ, [David@Violette.com](mailto:David@Violette.com)

*(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](http://www.VioletteFamily.org).)*

An early family oral tradition once described how the name Violet/Violette came to be applied to young François; this was prior to the research reported in our earlier chapters that shows the name was found in 17<sup>th</sup> century France. And remember that François was assigned to subrogate guardians in Louisbourg in 1751 and we have no record of his ever being part of his father's family again. When his father Charles returned to France in 1758 there is no record that any of his children returned with him. While today we know that the name came from France through his parents, and have the records to show this, you can imagine how early people without this knowledge could come up with a story to explain a child on his own and without parents.

Another family oral tradition holds that François at some time was apprenticed to or raised by a missionary. We explore this legend as well.

### ***The name Violet/Violette***

No there is nothing definitive about the name's origins. It could be the color, or it could be the flower. Old church records spell it different ways: Louis Viollet, Charles Violet. Records found by Rod Violette, our Genealogist, did not have it spelled Violette until about 1753 in Louisbourg i.e. Hierome Violette and the early 1800's in St. Basile, NB.

The French dictionary describes violette as a plant, and violet as a color.

### ***Explaining François' "Missing" Years – Some Speculation***

An early family oral tradition holds that François was at some time apprenticed to or raised by a missionary. He had some education and could at least sign his name, but that literacy could also have come from a school at Louisbourg, for there were nuns teaching there before 1758. And if he was associated with a missionary, there is no record of which one. It seems hard to believe that a roving missionary could afford to have a youngster tagging along, and missionaries were expected to move frequently from community to community. We could

## Chapter 10 – Some Violette Legends – Some Speculations

construct a scenario where François left his family when his father remarried in 1751. Remember that François' mother died when he was 6½ and his older sister when he was not yet two. He was assigned to subrogate guardians at this young age, but we do not know if he lived with them or with his father still. His father remarried within a month after his 46-year-old mother died, and his new stepmother was 30. New children started appearing within a year; François had been living in a household as an only child with only his father and mother for the last 4½ years and now suddenly there were little ones coming every year. When his father and the new family left for France in 1758 we can well imagine that François did not feel sufficiently a part of this group to go with them, if in fact he was free to do so under his subrogate guardianship. In fact, we can also imagine an estrangement beginning even earlier if François' new mother did not accept him as part of "her" family; picture a Cinderella story but with the father's child being male instead of female. If François did, indeed, become attached to a missionary we can also imagine his father accepting this because he was too busy with his work to take charge of an "orphan" boy and glad to have someone responsible do it, or maybe it was simply a way to avoid the turmoil if an estrangement occurred because of his second marriage.

This last paragraph contains elements of both oral tradition and speculation and may be pure fantasy. But while there is often some element of truth in oral tradition it is also very difficult to prove in any rigorous way. We leave it to the reader to construct their own explanation of that twelve-year period in François' life between the ages of 14 (when Charles returned to France) and 26 (when François shows up in records in southern New Brunswick)!