



REUNION 2008 A SUCCESS

Our Reunion Committee did a great job in organizing Reunion 2008 in Windsor Locks CT. About 200 people attended the events from Friday, August 8th through Sunday, August 10th.

We had so many chances to meet and greet: Friday saw lots of setup activities and a Happy Hour and Dinner in the evening; Saturday featured our Business Meeting and all the tables and booths were open; Saturday night featured our Banquet with speakers. And then there were the breakfast opportunities on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings. Not to speak of all the informal opportunities throughout the weekend. It was so great to be able to hug and shake hands with those "cousins" we only see once every three years!

Read more stories about Reunion 2008 at our web site—
www.VioletteFamily.org. And enjoy the photos in this newsletter. We'll have more photos at the web site soon.

Financially, Reunion 2008 was also a success, with net income of \$2,077.39. See the Treasurer's Report for more details.

Plus ça change, plus le même choix; our new Officers are our old Officers! And, we now have two positions added to the Executive Board. See the Secretary's report for the details.

But, we have a new Reunion 2011 Committee. See the story in this newsletter for more details.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR DNA HISTORY?

Nancy Nolette (VFA#1702) told us about her studies on DNA at Reunion 2008. Nancy's research can help you and your family dig through the technical terms and learn what you can do to learn more about your family background.

DNA is a molecule in your cells that carries your genetic code. This is genetic information you get from both of your parents and it determines many of your characteristics. Knowing about your DNA can be of great interest for those studying their genealogy, but it can also help us understand many health conditions and inherited characteristics we or our family members have. Nancy pointed out that DNA can even help support or disprove family lore!

Nancy gave us information on how to have your DNA tested. She got a kit from National Geographic Genographic Project, and the kit included maps, a video presentation on DVD, and other items needed to gather your DNA sample and submit it for testing.

Check out her talk in more details at www.VioletteFamily.org.

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Lucille Violette, John Violette, and Louiselle Violette enjoying breakfast on Friday morning at Reunion 2008.



Nancy Nolette telling us about family DNA at Reunion 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi All Violettes:

We've had a great year. Our Reunion in Connecticut, installation and dedication of the Violette Mill in Van Buren (Acadian Village), the coming together with our Virginia Violette cousins, and a very strong new Board. Our next Reunion in Maine is already being planned, we are considering an Association coat-of-arms, and we are moving into future adventures of DNA research, along with a constant growing Association with a big website presence. And, we are planning future publications which will enrich our family history. The list runs long in thanking so many for giving us such a strong family association.

We are always looking for donations and contributions to our Association. Not many organizations have no fees or membership cost as we do. That is something to really brag about. But, your financial kindness is always welcome. Without that, we would have no Association.

Please know that you can always get in touch with me regarding any Association questions or suggestions. Here are others who can help as well:

- Christine Lippincott (Vice President)
- Paul & Deanna Violette (Treasurer)
- Rod Violette (Secretary/Genealogist)
- David Violette (Website/Newsletter)
- Kim Richards (2011 Reunion Committee Chair)
- Rita Lippe (Hon. Life President)
- John Violette (past President, other positions)
- Marlene Violette (past Vice President)
- Louiselle Violette (Past Treasurer & support)
- Harold Violette, and Dick Violette.

Many thanks to all of you and let's all help support Kim with a successful 2011 Reunion. My thanks to all our members.

Regards, Paul J. Bunnell, President

"We Are One"



(L to R) Paul Bunnell, Pres; Dave Violette, WebMaster/Newsletter; Rod Violette, Secretary/Genealogist; Paul Violette, Treasurer; Chris Lippincott, Vice Pres

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1. Officer and member of Executive Committee
2. Member of Executive Committee

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Minutes VFA General Meeting: 9 August 2008

Call to Order at 1:05 PM.

Minutes:

Minutes of 2005 meeting read and approved.

Secretary's report:

Rod Violette reported that there were 1054 addresses on the mailing list with approximately 300 of those on the e-mail rolls.

Treasurer's report:

Paul Violette reported on the Association's financial status.

Profit from 2005 reunion was \$1006.03.

Leaving a balance of \$6001.64

Expenses, Newsletters \$2188.17

Balance prior to 2008 Reunion. \$3813.47

2008 reunion profit \$2,077.39

Balance 23 August 2008 \$5890.86

See Treasurer's Report for more details

President's report:

Paul Bunnell reported on the dedication of the Gristmill at the Acadian Village in Van Buren.

Committee reports:

Raffle, Christine Lippincott reported on the up-coming raffle and promoted the sales of tickets.

New Business:

Coat-of-Arms: Nancy Nolette volunteered to explore the possibility of getting an official coat-of-Arms for the Violette Family.

There was considerable discussion about amending the constitution to add a fifth member to the Officers of the Association. Rod Violette was concerned that an even number could lead to a tie vote. John Violette explained that a tie vote simply meant that the proposed action did not carry.

Moved by John Violette, seconded by Kim Roberts that the number of Officers remain at four. Any new positions would be part of the Executive Committee.

Passed unanimously.

Election of Officers: It was announced that the secretary Rod Violette and Treasurer Paul Violette would stand for re-election.

The position of President and Vice-President remained open.

CONTACT US



Getting set up for registrants at Reunion 2008. Paul Bunnell, standing left; Louiselle Violette, standing rear; Paul Violette, sitting; Rod Violette, standing, right



This large display showed all the Reunions to date and gave the names of the officers at the time of each Reunion as well as the Reunion Committees



Dick and Alice Violette at a table offering various publications—some free, some for sale. Dick had been gathering these items as well as numerous items for the raffle since the last Reunion!

SECRETARY'S REPORT (CONT'D)

After an appeal for volunteers to fill the President and Vice-President positions went unanswered, Paul Bunnell and Christine Lippincott agreed to stand for re-election.

Paul Bunnell was nominated for President by Robert Violette, seconded by Rod Violette. *Elected by acclamation.*

Christine Lippincott was nominated for Vice-President by Paul Violette and seconded by Robert Violette. *Elected by acclamation.*

Rod Violette was nominated for Secretary by Paul Bunnell, seconded by Rita Lippe. *Passed.*

Paul Violette was nominated by John Violette, seconded by Harold Violette. *Elected by acclamation.*

David A. Violette was nominated to the position of Webmaster and Newsletter editor. He accepted and was *elected by acclamation.*

Nancy Nolette was elected to the Executive Committee as DNA and Heraldry member.

Reunion Committee:

Kim Richards volunteered to chair the committee for the next reunion in 2011. Her sister Jody Carson, and father and mother Robert and Nancy Violette volunteered to assist her on the committee.

Kim stated her intention was to hold the reunion in northern Maine.

2:30. Motion to adjourn by Dick Violette seconded by John Violette. Carried.

Submitted by Rod Violette
Secretary, Violette Family Association

VIOLETTE INDUSTRIAL BUILDING DEDICATED

The Acadian Village in Keegan ME is one of the foremost places to see and feel the Acadian heritage and learn the history. Opened in 1976, it continues to grow and now has fourteen buildings that house exhibits of life in the times of the Acadian settlers in the upper St John River valley. While most buildings are historic and have been moved to the Village, the Violette Industrial Building was newly constructed. When Anne Roy, Director of the Acadian Village, heard about an old grist mill that was going to be sold among those she contacted was Alderic O. "Dick" Violette (VFA#100) of Warner NH. Francois Violet built the first grist mill in the area in 1791. Though this mill was not the one Francois built, the equipment was much the same and if sold and moved away it would be a loss to the

(Continued on page 5)

EMAIL BENEFITS

When you provide us with an email address you will not only get the newsletters but also news updates more often. Look for other fun items, too, as the year goes by.

Send your email and name to WebMaster@VioletteFamily.org



Members enjoy visiting at one of the happy hours



Joe and Marie Levasseur



Marc and Debbie Violette conversing with Ron and Elizabeth Violette

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report: 9 August 2008

Income:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Registration & Meals | \$ 7,494.00 |
| Genealogy Donations | 255.00 |
| Raffle | 717.00 |
| Table Sales | 95.00 |
| Auction of Rita's Last Book | 105.00 |
| Violette Family Items Sales | 22.00 |
| Total Income | \$ 8,999.00 |

Expenses:

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Beverly Hills Suites Hall Rental | \$ 700.00 |
| Beverly Hills Meals (Fri & Sat Night) | 5,056.94 |
| Beverly Hills Brunch (Sun Morning) | 200.00 |
| Gift Certificates | 200.00 |
| Cancellation - Reunion | 108.00 |
| Genealogy Receipts (Rod Violette) | 69.88 |
| Helium Tank Rental (Sandy Violette) | 29.67 |
| Room Give-Away (Joan Violette) | 88.00 |
| Room for Guest Speaker (Martin Violette) | 88.48 |
| Entertainment for Sat Banquet | 300.00 |
| Reimbursement (John Violette) | 80.64 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 6,921.61 |
| Net Balance 2008 Reunion: | \$ 2,077.39 |

Submitted by Paul L. Violette, Treasurer

VIOLETTE INDUSTRIAL BUILDING DEDICATED (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 4)

area. Dick and Alice had previously been active supporters of the Village, and they decided to help out again. Their donation helped to construct the building and move the equipment into it. In addition to the grist mill, other equipment is housed there that shows other operations necessary for the early settlements.

The Violette Industrial Building—named to honor Francois and his early work— was dedicated on Oct 15, 2005 and many Violette Family Association members took part in the dedication.

Read more in the story at www.VioletteFamily.org.

SUPPORT THE ASSOCIATION

The Association does not have dues but depends on donations and proceeds from Reunions to cover costs. Send your donation to:

Paul Violette, Treasurer
 Violette Family Assoc
 29 Lake Lorraine Circle
 Shalimar, FL 32579

We do not have tax-exempt status, however, so your contribution does not constitute a deductible donation.

HAVE A PERSONAL BLOG OR WEB SITE?

Send the link info to WebMaster@VioletteFamily.org or to Dave Violette, 207 W Sweetwater Ave, Phoenix AZ 85029, and we will add it to the Member Blogs and Webs at VioletteFamily.org so others can link with you.

And, don't forget to check out those member webs and blogs when you visit our site.



Dick Violette at the entrance to the Bâtisse Industrielle Violette at The Acadian Village.

REUNION 2011 IN THE PLANNING STAGES

The Reunion 2011 Committee: Kim Richards, Jody Carson, Nancy Violette, and Robert Violette of Norridgewock, Canaan, and Winslow ME volunteered to be the Reunion planning committee for 2011. Kim stated that their plan is to hold the 2011 Reunion in northern Maine, and they are busy exploring where and how.

Van Buren is the obvious first choice; 2011 will be the 30th anniversary of the dedication of the monument at Violette Brook. The Acadian Village, located in Keegan and near Van Buren, could have plenty of space to hold Reunion activities.

The current lack of hotel/motel rooms in Van Buren raises a concern for the planners. Discussions under way have considered possibly having the events in Van Buren while people stay in other communities in the area. Daigle's Motel in St Leonard NB is just across the river, but they do not have enough rooms to house us all.

Caribou ME is about 20 miles away and would have possibly enough housing. Madawaska ME is about 25 miles away and would have a sufficient number of rooms available, especially when taking into account those in Edmundston NB across the river. And Grand Falls NB is about 15 miles away and there is plenty of housing there.

Other discussions consider joining in the Acadian Festival in Madawaska that summer. This festival often features one or more family from the region. However, the Festival would have so many other activities that some are concerned that the Violette Family Association would lose focus and the cost of participating in the Festival may be beyond our means.

Under the current rules, people must have passports when crossing the border and that would be an added expense for those who do not already have a passport. (See the story in this newsletter about getting your passport)

We will continue to update you with Reunion planning progress!



Harold and John Violette (violet shirts) with John Violette/Landry and Gail Landry

REUNION 2011

Do you have ideas for Reunion 2011? Thoughts about where it should be held? Feedback from previous Reunions?

Send your thoughts and comments to one of the Officers (see names and addresses on page 2) and/or to the Reunion 2011 Committee:

Kim Richards, Reunion 2011 Chair,
P.O. Box 615, Norridgewock ME
04957
email richards@tdstelme.net



The Reunion 2011 Committee: Kim Richards, Jody Carson, Nancy Violette, and Robert Violette



Shirley Violette, Verna Fales, and Arnold and Juliette Ayotte at happy hour.

VIOLETTES OF VIRGINIA

Martin Violette, of Virginia, had been in touch with us over the last couple of years and was invited to be a guest speaker at Reunion 2008. Martin is a genealogist who has been working on the Violette families who settled in the Virginia area.

Martin has started a web site and a project to identify Violettes that came to Virginia and spread from there. This family came from England in the 1600s, though he has traced the roots much further back in English history. He has found references to the 1200s, when some weavers named Violette were brought to England from the European continent. This was probably the start of that branch from England though obviously the family had to have started before that.

Martin offered an answer to the question: How can you tell if you are a Violette of French Canadian descent or of Virginian descent?

First, check your family's line. If they go way back to New England or Canada, and there are some French given names, then you should probably assume you are of the French Canadian branch.

On the other hand, if your forebears go back to Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, or Indiana, and have predominantly English-sounding names (especially, in the earliest generations, names like Edward, John, Thomas, or William) you are likely from the other branch.

For more information, check out his web site at www.violettesofvirginia.com.

RITA'S LAST GENEALOGY BOOK RAFFLED OFF AT REUNION

Most of us are very familiar with the plum-colored book that is seen at every Reunion and on our personal bookshelves. Rita Violette-Lippe (VFA#1) produced the book that captured the results of her extensive genealogical research during the 1970s into Francois Violet and those who came after. "The Descendents of Francois Violet" was published in 1984, and Rita's work resulted in the formation of the Violette Family Association.

The books have been sold over the ensuing years, however that stock has run out. Only one book remained, and that was offered for raffle at Reunion 2008 with the proceeds going to the Association. Peter Girard (#1330) of Rocky Hill CT was the winner.

Discussions are underway to publish a sequel to Rita's book, taking up where hers left off in time. No specific plan or course of action has been decided on, but the sequel is not likely to be a hard-bound book as was the first.

BIRTHS? DEATHS? MARRIAGES?

Send items with photos if you have them, along with your email and name to

Rod Violette, Secretary
1775 Barn Valley Lane
Lincoln, CA 95648
Tel: 916-434-8136
Fax: 916-434-8137
Email: rviolette@att.net



Martin Violette of Virginia, sharing stories about the Violettes of Virginia with Alice and Dick Violette.

SHARE YOUR NEWS

Let others know what is happening in YOUR family! Send items with photos if you have them, along with your email and name to

WebMaster@VioletteFamily.org
or to Dave Violette, 207 W Sweetwater Ave, Phoenix AZ 85029



Rita's brother, Richard Violette (VFA#7) raffling the last remaining of Rita's genealogy book. Winner was Peter Girard (#1330) of Rocky Hill CT, who bought it for his wife, Florence (#1329) for \$105.

NEW ARRIVALS

VFA# 2147. Adriel and Bethany Violette Condis are delighted to announce the arrival of a new member to their family. Their daughter **Milana Marie** was born 29 Apr 2008. Congratulations!

IN MEMORIAM

Muriel Bilodeau Violette (VFA#837) passed away 2 Nov 2008. Her husband Rosaire (VFA#836) had predeceased her in 1999. Muriel was a graduate of U of M Fort Kent with a Bachelor of Science degree in education. She taught school for many years in Van Buren, ME.

Wayne (VFA#877) and Laura (VFA#878) Getchell Violette lost their 36 year old son **Gregory** unexpectedly on 11 Nov 2008. Gregory was a graduate of Caribou High School and the Wyoming Technical Institute and had a special talent for refurbishing and restoring antique automobiles.

Laurette Thibodeau Violette of N.D. de Lourdes, NB passed away 7 June, 2008 at the age of 90. She was predeceased by her late husband Patrick Violette. Laurette was a founding member of the Notre Dame de Lourdes branch of the Caisse Populaire la Vallee. She is survived by her 7 children, 13 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Kathy Violette Martin (VFA#1797) regrets to inform us of the passing of her father **Edsel Violette** (VFA#1629) of Rapid River, MI on 7 Nov 2008 of an apparent heart attack at the age of 81. Edsel worked as a maintenance supervisor at the Fisher Body Division of General Motors. He leaves behind his wife Patricia Griffin Violette, 2 sons, 5 daughters, 21 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren.

Nancy Ann Nolette (VFA#1702) regrets to inform us of the passing of her sister **Carol Jeanne Nolette Edgecomb** on 27 Jun, 2008 at the age of 57. She is survived by her children, Nicole and Renee. Nancy asked us to express her thanks for your kind words, thoughts and prayers.

We are sorry to learn of the passing of **William James "Jim" Menchenton**. He is survived by his wife Jeanne Lyman Menchenton (VFA#1745.). They were married two months short of 61 years. He also Leaves behind three adult children.

Roger (VFA#1921) and Nancy (VFA#1920) Violette Schmidt have several death notices to report. Their son **Robert Joseph Schmidt** passed on 18 Aug, 2008. Nancy lost her father **Wilbert**

(Continued on page 9)

SPREAD THE WORD!

Do you know of a family member who is not a member of the Violette Family Association? By all means send us their name, address, phone, date of birth, and email address so we can add them. They'll learn more about the Association and being a Violette!

Send email with info to

WebMaster@VioletteFamily.org

Or send to Dave Violette or Rod Violette; their addresses are found elsewhere in this newsletter.



Edsel and Patricia Violette, during Elaine and Dave Violette's visit in Aug 2006

HELP SAVE COST—USE EMAIL

We can save substantial cost when we send your newsletter by email. Won't you send us your email address today if you have not already?

Send email to

WebMaster@VioletteFamily.org

With your name, address, and email address.

IN MEMORIAM (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 8)

Violette in 2000 and her mother **Betty Jane Olson Violette** in 2005. Her uncle **Albert Eli Violette** passed away 13 Feb, 2008.

VFA#1956. Robert Violette of Edmundston informed us that his daughter **Brenda Violette Cannell** passed away 26 Jun 2008. after a courageous two year battle with cancer. She leaves behind her husband Hugh and two children, Sarah and Robert.

Alderic O. "Dick" Violette (VFA#100) says his youngest sister, **Elmire Violette Michaud**, (VFA#437) passed away after a battle with cancer on 16 Oct 2008. She leaves her daughter, Claudette Sullivan (VFA#1740), two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Ellie was 88 when she died and had lived in CT for more than 68 years; she was raised in Van Buren ME. Ellie worked for many years at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford, CT. She was predeceased by her husband, Yvon Michaud, also of Van Buren.

Roger J. Petit, (VFA#11) husband of Irene (VFA#10) Violette Petit passed away 28 Oct 2008, after a long struggle against heart disease. Family and the Catholic faith were very important to Roger and his wife Irene. Roger was instrumental in bringing the traditional Latin Mass back to the Hudson Falls, NY area in 1983. They were married in 1962 and had 10 children. He is survived by his wife, 10 children, 50 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

SHARE YOUR NEWS

Let others know what is happening in YOUR family! Send items with photos if you have them, along with your email and name to

WebMaster@VioletteFamily.org
or to Dave Violette, 207 W Sweet-



Elmire Michaud (l), and Dick Violette (r), with their cousin Conrad Soucie in East Hartford CT, Aug 2008

RITA HONORED WITH LETTER FROM FRANCE

President Paul Bunnell made arrangements for the Mayor of the city in France where Francois Violet was born to send a special letter to



Paul Bunnell presenting the mounted letter from the Mayor of Rochelle France to Rita.

Rita. The letter honored her for her digging into the genealogical history of the family and her continued interest in the Violette family roots.

REUNION 2011

Do you have ideas for Reunion 2011? Thoughts about where it should be held? Feedback from previous Reunions?

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Kim Richards, Reunion 2011 Chair,
P.O. Box 615, Norridgewock ME
04957
email richards@tdstelme.net

NEED A PASSPORT?

It's not too early to plan for Reunion 2011, and if you do not already have a passport you will likely need one for that event. If, as planned, the reunion will be held in northern Maine—perhaps the Van Buren area- there are many sites in nearby New Brunswick that you will most certainly want to visit. Crossing the border requires a passport.

Passport or Passport Card?

The US Department of State offers two ways to prove identity and citizenship: the traditional **passport**, and the new **passport card**. The passport card is similar to a driver's license and easy to carry, but *a passport card is not valid for air travel*. It is meant to be an easy document to carry when crossing borders by vehicles or for those who cross often. If you already have a passport you can apply for a passport card as a Renewal.

How much does it cost?

On a normal basis the passport application fees when you apply in person for an adult passport at a Passport Agency or Acceptance Agency are as shown in the table below. That data is from the Department of State web site and the figures are valid as of November 2008.

| What Are You Applying For? | Applica-tion Fee | Execution Fee | Total Amount You Pay |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Passport Book (Age 16 & Older) | \$75.00 | \$25.00 | \$100.00 |
| Passport Book (Under Age 16) | \$60.00 | \$25.00 | \$85.00 |
| Passport Card (Age 16 & Older) | \$20.00 | \$25.00 | \$45.00 |
| Passport Card (Under Age 16) | \$10.00 | \$25.00 | \$35.00 |

If you apply by mail the Execution Fee is not required. Expedited service is available but at a higher cost.

How long is a passport good for?

Ten years, for either passport or passport card.

What do I need to get a passport?

Fill out the necessary application form (DS-11) and provide a certified birth certificate or other official proof of citizenship plus two standard passport photos.

Where can I get a passport?

Many Post Offices offer this service.

Learn more at <http://travel.state.gov/passport>



Ron and Elizabeth Violette and Bobbi and Vern Violette at happy hour



One of the tables at Friday night's dinner

SPREAD THE WORD!

Do you know of a family member who is not a member of the Violette Family Association? By all means send us their name, address, phone, date of birth, and email address so we can add them. They'll learn more about the Association and being a Violette!

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