

Valentine's Day

As for the majority of long-lasting feasts, the origins of the Saint Valentine's Day are not known, but many historians think that the celebration of love originates in the death of a Christian saint or a festival in ancient Rome.

Another popular belief argues that February 14th, Valentine's Day, would be the first day of the mating period for birds, close to springtime. The English poets Chaucer and Shakespeare mention it in their texts. Nevertheless, it is hard to give credit to this saying as the mating takes place much later in Europe and in America.

It is customary for couples to exchange tender poems as well as flowers and cards on that day. It is estimated that one billion love letters are mailed every year on Valentine's Day.

Chocolate is the traditional gift for this special occasion. Nowadays some shops offer chocolate for diabetics who have to stick to a sugar free diet.

Karen Archambault makes such chocolate products without any preservative. She owns her own little chocolate factory in Huntsville, Alabama, since she graduated from a confectionery school from South Carolina in 1982.

She shares some advice with us: "Never put chocolate in the fridge. Keep it at room temperature."

There was a French custom in Normandy called *valentinage*, which used to take place on February 14th each year. Girls would write their names on a little piece of paper that they put in an urn. The boys would draw the name of the girl who would become their little darling for the year. Today, it could be associated to the engagement ceremony that precedes the wedding.

On the last page, you'll find the names of Archambaults who got married on February 14th.

A few Archambault married on February 14

| LAST NAME | SPOUSE | PARISH | YEAR | D.G.A.A. ¹ |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------|-----------------------|
| Pierre | Marie-Thérèse Dalpé | L'Assomption | 1774 | vol. 1, p. 110 |
| Nicolas | Geneviève Duval | Pointe-aux-Trembles | 1774 | vol. 1, p. 100 |
| Gervais | Marie-Marguerite Guildry-Labine | Saint-Jacques-de- Montcalm | 1803 | vol. 2, p. 25 |
| Archange | Urbain Langlois | Longue-Pointe, Montréal | 1803 | vol. 2, p. 20 |
| Marie-Louise | Denis Jalbert | St-Antoine-sur-Richelieu | 1814 | vol. 2, p. 119 |
| Louis | Thérèse Meunier | Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines | 1831 | vol. 2, p. 52 |
| Adélaïde | Magloire Dubreuil | L'Assomption | 1832 | vol. 2, p. 97 |
| Isaac | Praxède Gauvin | Saint-Hyacinthe | 1843 | vol. 3, p. 131 |
| Casimir | Rosaline Peron | Saint-Hyacinthe | 1843 | vol. 2, p. 154 |
| François-Xavier | Joséphine Rivet | Repentigny | 1848 | vol. 3, p. 162 |
| Joséphine | Néré Champagne | Saint-Paul-l'Ermitte | 1859 | vol. 2, p. 100 |
| François-Xavier | Mélina Poitras | L'Épiphanie | 1860 | vol. 3, p. 95 |
| Henriette | Charles Longpré | Saint-Paul-l'Ermitte | 1860 | vol. 6, p. 21 |
| Joseph | Frésine Major | Saint-Vincent-de-Paul | 1882 | vol. 3, p. 146 |
| Hermina | Alexis Laporte | Berthier | 1882 | |
| Emma | Octave Gracette | Frelighsburg | 1898 | vol. 5, p. 170 |
| Eugénie | Jules Lapalme | Saint-Lin | 1905 | vol. 4, p. 234 |
| Valérie | Frédéric Laperle | Saint-Denis-sur-Richelieu | 1905 | vol. 4, p. 341 |
| Alphonsine | Ananias Pigeon | Saint-Antoine | 1911 | vol. 4, p. 163 |
| Wilfrid | Blanche Faure | Montréal | 1917 | vol. 5, p. 40 |
| Hector | Yvonne Corriveau | Joliette | 1931 | vol. 5, p. 111 |
| Gérard | Marie-Jeanne Dufault | Sherbrooke | 1942 | vol. 5, p. 156 |
| Marcel | Marie-Louise Vallée | Saint-Hilaire | 1942 | vol. 4, p. 160 |
| Paul-Horace | Jeanne Jacques | Sainte-Théodosie | 1942 | vol. 5, p. 126 |
| Pierre-Paul | Céline Bissonnette | Verchères | 1976 | vol. 6, p. 252 |
| Pierre | Céline Gagné | Lac-Lemoyne | 1976 | |

1. Pierre Archambault, *Dictionnaire généalogique des Archambault d'Amérique*.

