

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'Ermité	1859	vol. 2, p. 100
François-Xavier	Mélina Poitras	L'Épiphanie	1860	vol. 3, p. 95
Henriette	Charles Longpré	Saint-Paul-l'Ermité	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*.

