



**MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ**

When you look up love in the dictionary it gives two definitions “ an intense feeling or deep affection” and “a great interest or pleasure in something”.

The Wyandotte Historical Society is considering writing a cook book and we need your help! Think of a family recipe that you love. You might love it for its taste or perhaps you love it for the memories it brings to you.

If you would like to share your recipe with us, and include a story or share a picture of your loved one who made it with you please mail or email it us.

Our address is:  
 Wyandotte Historical Society  
 2624 Biddle Ave.  
 Wyandotte, MI 48192-5208

Our email is: wyandottehistory@gmail.com

Please note we are assuming we can use your recipe, story and pictures if you share them with us.

Mary-Johna Wein, President

**News On George Gouth**

It is not difficult to notice that George has been missing from action for a while. His activities have always been numerous and richly rewarding for those around him.



For the time being, he has taken up residence at the Applewood (Symphony) Nursing Center in Woodhaven for a little R & R. Those letters have many meanings such as Relaxation, Rest, Rehabilitation, just to mention a few.

Knowing George’s determination and resilience we know that he will give it all he can and use up those letters. I am positive that he would appreciate cards from our members and friends. Perhaps we can send a lot of cheerful messages. The address is:

Applewood Nursing Center,  
 18500 Van Horn Road,  
 Woodhaven, Mi. 48183.

*Ken Navarre*

**A Strange Valentine**

Following is a very unusual Valentine that caught Audrey Wicklander’s attention as she was researching Victorian valentines and foods.



In the Victorian era, salmon and leeks was a popular dish for St. Valentine’s Day.

If you are intrigued about the combination, you may want to try a modern day Valentine’s salmon recipe with leeks. A recipe that looks super interesting and very tasty is online at:

<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/229453/valentines-salmon/>

**Please give a warm welcome to our newest members!**

- Lois Borgosz
- Ralph Hale
- Alice Labadie
- Bonnie Nietubicz
- Calvin Thomas
- Shirley Urbanek

## Some Valentine Food Origins & Weird Victorian Foods and Customs

*(continued from the cover page)*

The traditions of gift-giving, eating, and drinking on Valentine's started around 1840 and naturally, there were some early superstitions that involved food. In the 1870s, there were two odd traditions associated with bay leaves and a hardboiled egg. A woman would take five bay leaves and pin four to each corner of her pillow and one in the center. If she dreamt of her Valentine that night, they should be married before the year was over to bring forth a long-lasting marriage. In another Victorian tradition, a hardboiled egg yolk was replaced with salt, and then the whole egg was eaten by the lady – shell and all – without speaking of one's sweetheart or even "winking" after him. For some reason, this was supposed to bring good luck to your romance.

What would be served on Valentine's Day in Victorian times? One menu served at a New York restaurant in 1882 had the following items: mullagatawny (an Indian-British fusion combining curry and chicken noodle soup), salmon in an anchovy sauce, a leg of mutton, stuffed duck, ribs, beef stew, macaroni and cheese, fried oysters, potted pigeon on toast, mashed potatoes, rice, steamed vegetables, mayonnaise (as a side dish) and cold jellied turkey. For dessert they served plated figs, cheese, and nuts, as well as apple pastries, meringue, and plum pudding. Doesn't sound half bad – except for the pigeon, mayonnaise, and jellied turkey. Later in 1906, another New York restaurant served grapefruit, olives, celery, roasted almonds, lobster a la Newburgh, filet mignon, French fries, roasted squash, Valentine Salad, coffee, and "Fancy Ice Cream" on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

What about the historic origins of some all-time favorites? The first heart-shaped box of chocolates was produced by Cadbury in 1861, along with a recipe for creamier chocolate than what was on the market at that time. Cadbury was also the first to commercialize the idea of eating chocolate because up until that point, chocolate was strictly for drinking - kind of like coffee. Chocolates on Valentine's Day became popular in the Victorian era, but chocolate was a popular drink for the rich in the U.S. starting in 1641 when the importing of cocoa beans started. The first chocolate manufacturer opened in 1683 in Boston. Chocolate went through many processes from the 1600s to the 1900s, but by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Cadbury, Mars, Nestle, and Hershey all produced the sweet treat we know and love in special packaging specifically for Valentine's Day.



Necco wafers, which partially branched off to become conversation hearts, originally started as a throat lozenge. The wafers were the first candy produced by machine in 1847 after Oliver Chase decided to create the candy version because his medicinal lozenges tasted so good! His brother, Daniel, printed messages on the (much larger) wafers in 1866. The first messages included: "Married in white you have chosen right." and "How long shall I have to wait? Please be considerate." Now, over 8 billion conversation hearts are produced each year.

Wine, of course, is an ancient drink that has its earliest origins in Iran and China, but how did it become so ingrained in Valentines and the representation of love as a whole? Scientific studies have proven that drinking wine produces oxytocin in the brain, which produce feelings of pleasure and love. It's unlikely that people back then knew about this outright, so some other possible reasons could be: the color of the wine itself, the fanciness associated with the presentation of a bottle of wine, and the fact that it pairs well with both dinner and dessert, as well as it being alcoholic so as you drink it, it may help you relax to an extent.

Hope you learned something new and have a great Valentine's Day! Come check out the museums Valentine's Open House on Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 8 pm if you would like to know more about Victorian Valentines.

Audrey Wicklander, Museum Assistant

## Valentine's Day Traditions in Wyandotte's Past

As is the case with most other American holidays, Valentine's Day, or St. Valentine's Day, as it was referred to in the not-so-distant past, has become quite commercial – a consumer's paradise, if you will. These days, the holiday of "love and romance" runs the gamut of folks purchasing everything from greeting cards to candy, flowers to jewelry, extravagant dinners to even vacations for the special people in their lives. In fact, experts claim Americans alone spent close to 22 billion dollars in conjunction with the Valentine's Day holiday in 2021!

Early Wyandotters maintain that the heyday of St. Valentine's Day was around 1900. While residents did not spend quite as much on the holiday in those days, the City still clamored to host events; local stores sought to rake in the sales, and many got to work fashioning their own homemade valentines to be sent to those admired. It was such a popular time of the year that entire stories and poems were written, songs sung, and headlines blasted in leading newspapers.

During Wyandotte's first one hundred years from February 10-13, social gatherings occurred which created a veritable hub of sorts. Every group from cultural clubs and organizations, to ladies' auxiliaries



and various church congregations staged a dance, ball, concert or soiree. Citizens would come together at spaces such as local churches, theaters and opera houses, and organizational meeting spaces, all in an effort to celebrate St. Valentine's Day. Live and recorded music allowed for dancing, while private residents and local companies provided refreshments. In 1931, at one such gathering at the Knights of Columbus, Billy Bowen and his Rhythm Stompers provided the "musical inspirations." A popular Detroit group at the time, Billy "Butterball" Bowen was a singer and jazz saxophonist who performed in many states during his lengthy career. He went on to become a member of the highly-influential and pioneering vocal group, the Ink Spots. They went on to be inducted into both the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Vocal Group Hall of Fame. (Bowen is at the left in the picture to your left.)

Though valentines in the form of greeting cards were popular one hundred years ago, during the heyday of the holiday, many created their own missives (a term used by many to describe valentines, as an often-humorous communication put to paper) out of materials such as cardstock, paper, lace, ribbon and feathers. These would be given to someone by an admirer in person, or, more commonly, via post anonymously. The practice was so popular, in the early 1890s, the post office in Wyandotte refused to open on the holiday, in order to "distribute the missives."

One never knew if they had an admirer and at times, valentines seemed to be sent to various residents without provocation or reasoning, or simply as a tradition. In fact, in 1899, a staff member of the Wyandotte Herald reported receiving the exact same card four years in a row. A notice was placed in the newspaper asking that, "If our admirer (?) will change the style a little next year it will be greatly appreciated as it is getting a trifle monotonous." Stories abounded regarding the wickedness of some senders who showered others with cards, only to never give up their identity. Yes, the Valentine's Day occurrences of yesteryear are quite different than they are these days.

The practice of sending flowers or candy was just as common in the bygone days as they are today. February was a busy month for florists and confectioners in Wyandotte. Many other shops took out

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### Valentine’s Day Traditions in Wyandotte’s Past

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advertisements in the Herald to let residents know they were also selling St. Valentine’s Day products, such as cards and candy. Stores like the Cahalan Bros. and Dorrance & Garrison, both known druggists in Wyandotte, marketed their holiday wares on front-page spreads, displaying the great interest for the holiday at the time.

Below, is a page one ad from the February 10, 1899 edition of the Wyandotte Herald.



Lowney’s Chocolate Bonbons were quite popular at the time and the girl in the advertisement was the actual logo for Lowney’s and not a random depiction for Dorrance & Garrison. Lowney’s was a Massachusetts chocolatier who started in the 1880s. Many changes occurred throughout the twentieth century and some of its most famous lines, such as the Cherry Blossoms became a subsidiary of Hershey’s.

While not initially a commercial holiday, Valentine’s Day has certainly become a very lucrative holiday for various businesses and it currently sits third (behind Christmas and Thanksgiving) in terms of overall spending. We shower those we care for with cards, flowers, candy and random gifts – just as Wyandotters of the past did.

If you would like to see displays of early valentines and share in some light refreshments, please join us for our Valentine’s Day Open House, Friday, February 11, from 5pm-8pm. Admission is free!

Jesse Rose, Museum Director

### WANDERING OAKWOOD CEMETERY Margaret and Daniel Campau

Somewhere in Oakwood lies the final resting place for Mary Armstrong and John Earl Bonehill. Their love for one another and their family built a foundation for generations to come.

On December 5, 1849 Margaret Bonehill was born in New York. She was the daughter of Mary Armstrong and John Earl Bonehill.

On February 7, 1870 Margaret married Daniel Campau. This is a picture of Maggie in her wedding dress.



Daniel was a blacksmith, city marshal, and in 1892 he even served as the mayor of Wyandotte .

Together Maggie and Daniel had four children William, Mary, Daniel and Katherine. Unfortunately Maggie wouldn’t get to watch her children grow up. She passed away when Katherine was only six weeks old on December 14, 1876 at the age of 27.

According to the 1880 census Daniel and his children lived with Margaret’s family in the family home on Oak Street. William would graduate from Wyandotte’s first high school, “old Central” on Oak Street, in the Class of 1889. He would pass away a few years later. Both William and Daniel would pass before their father and they would be buried in the family plot at Oakwood.

Daniel passed away on April 4, 1909 at the age of 67. He is buried in Oakwood alongside the love of his life, his children and many of Margaret’s relatives.

Return Service Requested

**Wyandotte Historical Society**

Burns Home

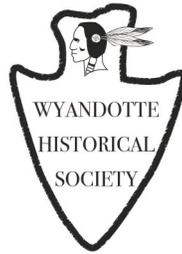
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Non-Profit Organization  
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Address Label



**Will you come to the Valentine's Open House?  
Friday, February 11 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
2610 Biddle Avenue, the Ford MacNichol Museum**

**On Thursday, March 3 the Museum will reopen for tours.**

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