



# The Gold Standard

A periodical of the Cadillac & LaSalle Club  
Hampton Roads Region  
[www.hamptonroadsvaclc.org](http://www.hamptonroadsvaclc.org)

**NEXT MEETING: Saturday February 9th, 2019  
11:30 am at Water Street Grille, Yorktown, VA  
plus Tour of Yorktown Victory Center.**

**QUA NOS VADO NEMO ESURITI .... As we travel, no one hungers.**

## FEBRUARY 2019

**DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE ..... John Hook**

**Hope this month finds everyone in good health and ready for cards, flowers and chocolates.  
I'll jump right in:**

February birthdays include several famous Virginians:

- George Washington Feb 22, 1732, the first President.
- Cyrus McCormick Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, 1809 Invented the reaper for cultivation of crops.
- William Henry Harrison Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, 1773, 9<sup>th</sup> US president, died 32 days after taking office.

Events:

- Thomas Jefferson started building Monticello in 1769.
- 1916 Charles Kettering received a patent for a self-starting automobile engine.

**Pagan festivals, Christian saints, Chaucer's love birds, and the Greeting Card Association of America**

Article provided by: Borgna Brunner



### ***Roman Roots***

*The history of Valentine's Day is obscure, and further clouded by various fanciful legends. The holiday's roots are in the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia, a fertility celebration commemorated annually on*

*February 15. Pope Gelasius I recast this pagan festival as a Christian feast day circa 496, declaring February 14 to be St. Valentine's Day.*

### **Valentines Galore**

*Which St. Valentine this early pope intended to honor remains a mystery: according to the Catholic Encyclopedia, there were at least three early Christian saints by that name. One was a priest in Rome, another a bishop in Terni, and of a third St. Valentine almost nothing is known except that he met his end in Africa. Rather astonishingly, all three Valentines were said to have been martyred on Feb. 14.*

*Most scholars believe that the St. Valentine of the holiday was a priest who attracted the disfavor of Roman emperor Claudius II around 270. At this stage, the factual ends and the mythic begins. According to one legend, Claudius II had prohibited marriage for young men, claiming that bachelors made better soldiers. Valentine continued to secretly perform marriage ceremonies but was eventually apprehended by the Romans and put to death. Another legend has it that Valentine, imprisoned by Claudius, fell in love with the daughter of his jailer. Before he was executed, he allegedly sent her a letter signed "from your Valentine." Probably the most plausible story surrounding St. Valentine is one not focused on Eros (passionate love) but on agape (Christian love): he was martyred for refusing to renounce his religion.*

*In 1969, the Catholic Church revised its liturgical calendar, removing the feast days of saints whose historical origins were questionable. St. Valentine was one of the casualties.*

### **Chaucer's Love Birds**

*It was not until the 14th century that this Christian feast day became definitively associated with love. According to UCLA medieval scholar Henry Ansgar Kelly, author of *Chaucer and the Cult of Saint Valentine*, it was Chaucer who first linked St. Valentine's Day with romance.*

*In 1381, Chaucer composed a poem in honor of the engagement between England's Richard II and Anne of Bohemia. As was the poetic tradition, Chaucer associated the occasion with a feast day. In "The Parliament of Fowls," the royal engagement, the mating season of birds, and St. Valentine's Day are linked:*

*For this was on St. Valentine's Day,  
When every fowl cometh there to choose his mate.*

### **Tradition of Valentine's Cards**

*Over the centuries, the holiday evolved, and by the 18th century, gift-giving and exchanging handmade cards on Valentine's Day had become common in England. Hand-made valentine cards made of lace, ribbons, and featuring cupids and hearts eventually spread to the American colonies. The tradition of Valentine's cards did not become widespread in the United States, however, until the 1850s, when Esther A. Howland, a Mount Holyoke graduate and native of Worcester, Mass., began mass-producing them. Today, of course, the holiday has become a booming commercial success. According to the Greeting Card Association, 25% of all cards sent each year are valentines.*

**SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY MEETING ..... Anna McPhetridge**

We met at Venture Cafe in Hampton on 1/12/19, 8 people attended. We welcomed two new members, Jim Bracco and Madelyn Creedon, to our group - it was a pleasure to meet them! We discussed a possible presentation about the U.S.S. Constitution in the future.

We had a reminder for members to please submit pictures of their vehicle(s) to Art for updating our website.

Our next meeting is 02/09/19, and plan to attend the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown after our lunch meeting. The location for our February meeting is the Water Street Grille. The museum

website: <https://www.historyisfun.org/yorktown-victory-center/>

## **FEBRUARY MEETING AND TOURS REPORT ..... Mitch McPhetridge**

We will meet at the Water Street Grille, 323 Water Street in Yorktown, VA at 11:30 am. Phone 757-369-5644. Website is <https://waterstreetgrille.net/> to see menu selections. Some of us will be there at 11:00, when they open up, to set up a few tables together. After the meeting we will gather to tour the Yorktown Victory Center. [www.historyisfun.org/yorktown-victory-center/](http://www.historyisfun.org/yorktown-victory-center/).

Please let me know that you plan to be there, so we can set up space for region members attending. Mark it on your calendar and RSVP to me, Mitch McPhetridge, 757- 424- 1185, or at [carclubmeeting@outlook.com](mailto:carclubmeeting@outlook.com).

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT ..... James Gregg**

Our region's membership year begins January 1st and ends December 31st. **Please use the membership form that is on our website and renew today. Note: Region members must be current national C&LC members.** (According to the C&LC club rules.)

Be sure to let all your friends and Cadillac and LaSalle owners you meet know about our region. We use your valid C&LC # for your C&LCHRR membership. Many thanks to the members who have already renewed their 2019 region membership. If you haven't done so yet, please do it as soon as possible.

## **C&LCHRR has a great website....go to [www.hamptonroadsvac.org](http://www.hamptonroadsvac.org).....we want your input.....**

This is thanks to the generous efforts of Art Midgette, our webmaster. Please let Art know how you like it, he is asking for feedback and articles etc at [answers@hamptonroadsvac.org](mailto:answers@hamptonroadsvac.org). He also wants pictures of your Cadillacs and LaSalles. Please send them in JPEG format to the same e-mail, if possible.

Also check out the "Fun Links" on our website. You will enjoy them.

## **WHAT CADILLAC DEALER IS NEAR ME?**

Suttle Motors Cadillac in Newport News near the airport

[www.suttlemotors.com](http://www.suttlemotors.com)

Duke Cadillac in downtown Suffolk

[www.dukecadillac.com](http://www.dukecadillac.com)

Holiday Cadillac in Williamsburg towards the colonial area

[www.hudginsholiday.com](http://www.hudginsholiday.com)

Hendrick Cadillac in Norfolk on VA Beach Blvd

[www.rickhendrickcadillacnorfolk.com](http://www.rickhendrickcadillacnorfolk.com)

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**DIRECTIONS TO WATER STREET GRILLE:** From South side Hampton Roads, take US 64 north over the HRBT and exit 258 for RT 17 North (George Washington Memorial Hyw) and follow this to Historical Yorktown waterfront, exit Rt 17 just before the Coleman Bridge with a left turn to the waterfront. Be alert to it when you see the bridge ahead. Take right on the Water Street past the Waterman's Museum and you will see the Water Street Grille on the left. Parking is in a garage on the right.

From the North side of Hampton Roads, take US 64 and follow above directions.

**After the Meeting,** go west on Water Street past the exit to Rt 17 and you will find the Yorktown Victory Center on the left, plenty of free parking.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND COME!**

**9 FEB .... C&LCHRR Meeting... Water Street Grille, Yorktown, VA**

**9 MAR .... C&LCHRR Meeting ... to be announced**

**C&LC Hampton Roads Region  
845 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street  
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