

Vol. 4- APRIL 2017

HEIRS

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society

newsletter



www.HEIRS.ca
Tel.: 519 738-3700
Email: hheritage@bellnet.ca

243 McAfee St., PO Box 53,
Harrow, ON Canada N0R 1G0
Harrow & Colchester South
Community Centre (Arena Bldg.)



Next meeting...

***Battle of Vimy Ridge
- 100 year anniversary***

Newsletter News!

Welcome to the April newsletter

A number of local milestones will be happening during Canada's 150 celebration year. No doubt you have already heard of some of them, with towns & cities, regional parks and historic areas planning their own special festivities.

One that stood out already is the free Discovery Pass for Parks Canada sites. A great chance to stop in with friends (only one pass per everyone in a car is needed for free entry). Just check out the entire list across Canada at <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/> - hope you can take advantage of this special 2017 promotion.

Our upcoming meeting looks at one of the important milestones occurring this year. See you there?

Next Meeting

When: Thursday, April 27, 1:30 PM

Where: Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Centre

Our April meeting will focus on World War 1 as we mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, in which Canadian forces won a most important victory, but only at the cost of thousands of lives.

The respect gained by our military on that occasion has made Canada a respected nation that can be counted on in desperate situations.

HEIRS president, Richard Herniman will present "WW1-True Stories and Slang Terms". Included will be the story of four young men who were designated raiders, and their dangerous missions, stories about Royalty who served during the war years, and the prince who never forgot a Canadian soldier, and how he earned the respect of his men as a "regular guy".

He will also explain the story behind a tank named for a can of meat, and the use of slang words during and after the war. Richard will educate us on the real meanings of barkers, bergoo and Massey Harris, among other off-beat terms.

Join HEIRS as we look back at 1917, & recall with pride what our soldiers accomplished.



On Thursday, March 23, HEIRS members gathered to hear Rita Jabbour of the Essex Planning Department tell us about plans for designating historic sites and buildings as historically important, and preserving them from destruction and neglect.

She explained why it is important that at least some of these be saved, while also pointing out that some structures are too badly damaged for them to be rescued.

We saw the history of some of downtown Harrow's buildings, shown today, while we learned of their past usage and history.

The value of some of these as tourist attractions and as part of our cultural heritage was shown, with the request that we all consider becoming more involved in the



Rita Jabbour

ongoing effort to prevent the loss of these buildings which tell so much of our own families' stories.



From the HEIRS mailbag....



(WE DO ENJOY GETTING MEMBER FEEDBACK)

“Please find enclosed my cheque for a thumb drive of the John Quick family genealogy. Thanks for the work you have done to preserve our family heritage. I had the pleasure of visiting your office a couple of years ago, and left with a wealth of information. Thanks again .”

- Shelley St. Pierre

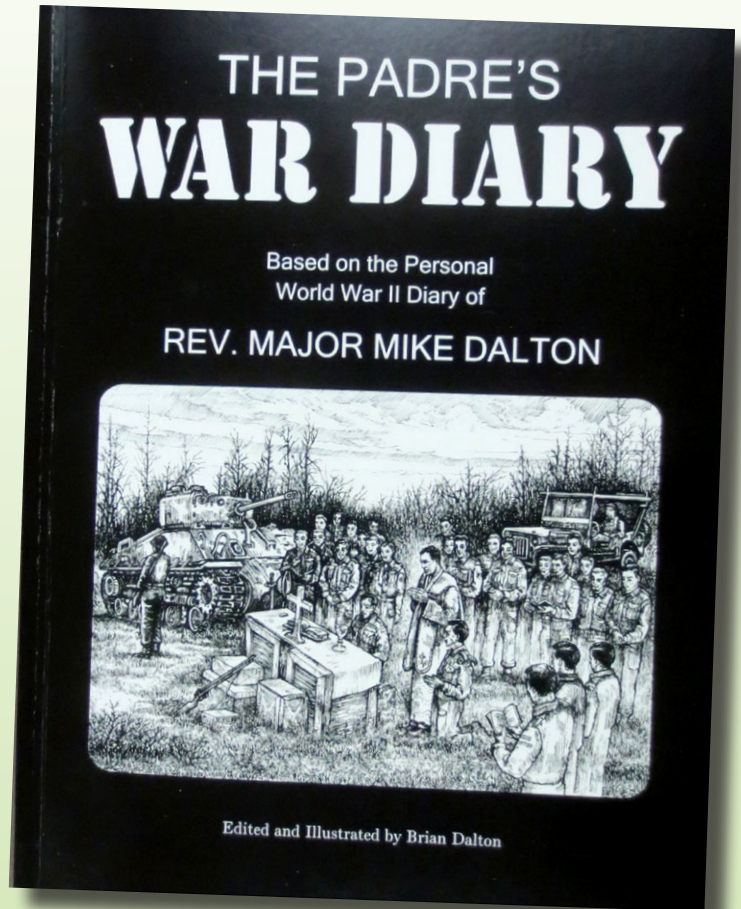
HEIRS has added an important book to its collection; called “The Padre’s War Diary”, it is mainly entries in the personal diary of Rev. Mike Dalton, covering the last 4 years of WW2.

Dalton ministered to the Essex-Kent Scottish in England, then was with them through the battles of France, Belgium and Holland, saving Mass and caring for those damaged in many ways through the events around them.

The written entries are accompanied by 200 detailed pen and ink drawings. Following the war, Rev. Dalton returned home to serve as pastor in Windsor, Woodslee and Kingsville.

The end pages also include an honour roll listing the Essex Kent Scottish soldiers who served in the Second World War. Rev. Dalton died in 2009, at the age of 106.

His nephew Brian, the book’s author, is an artist and retired teacher living in Owen Sound.



Should anyone wish to buy a copy of the book, please let us know at HEIRS. We will happily provide the information.

The Amherstburg Freedom Museum (formerly the Black History Museum) is currently hosting a temporary exhibit, featuring four families, one of which is the McCurdy family, with photos & information from the Alvin McCurdy collection.

It shows multiple perspectives in Ontario during the late 19th century, & how Canada celebrated the centennial anniversary of Confederation in 1967. As well as the records, photos & artifacts on the McCurdys, & other items from the Freedom Museum’s own collection are displayed.

Exhibit open until the end of March, during regular museum hours. Take advantage of the opportunity to see this exciting and historic display NOW!

S.O.S. / HELP / AID / ASSISTANCE...

HEIRS needs your input.

We are compiling a list of about 225 interesting facts about Colchester Township – things that make our area special.

If you can contribute even a few, it would help. The entire compilation will be used in the coming celebrations to mark the 225th anniversary of the settling of Colchester Township, as part of marking the 150th birthday of Canada.

The fact can be about a building, an individual or an event... almost any nuggets of interesting details are appreciated. You can relay the info verbally to any director of HEIRS at a meeting, or by email to hheritage@bellnet.com, or to historynut@outlook.com (that's Ted Steele), or even by an old-fashioned telephone call. **Give us a hand with this special project.**

April 10 marks the 152nd birthday of Jack Miner, Canada's first conservationist.

To celebrate National Wildlife Week, which begins the weekend of April 8/9, the Jack Miner Bird Migratory Bird Foundation will host many activities for all ages.

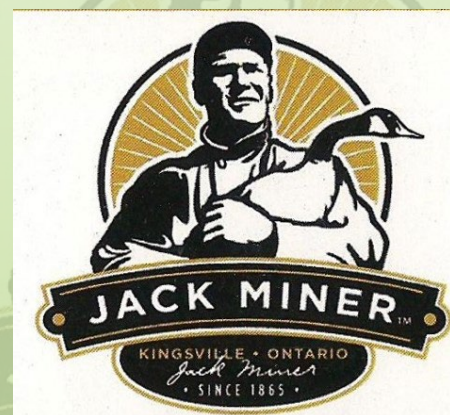
Duck and goose calling contests, Sportsman's Yard Sale, raptor demonstrations, retriever demonstrations, chainsaw carving and more.



Daytime events run from 10 AM to 4 PM and are free!! Visitors can tour new exhibits in the museum and the Miner house, and learn about plans for new displays and events.

Jack Miner's 152nd Birthday Bash will be celebrated on Saturday, April 8. On April 9, enjoy a pancake and sausage breakfast with locally made maple syrup. (tickets for this are now available at the Bird Sanctuary)

Check the website at www.jackminer.com, or call 519-733-034, or you can email events@jackminer.com (put National Wildlife Week in the subject line).



Jack Miner
• SINCE 1865 •

6 Upcoming Events

Help us build a comprehensive file of information & photos dealing with the two World Wars.

If you have any family information to contribute, we would like the opportunity to copy it for our records.

Let's get as much as possible on record for research before it disappears forever. I was fortunate enough to be offered a treasure trove of photos and clippings from WW2 by a woman who was told by her grown children that "we don't want that war junk". I am now in possession of wonderful material that came too close to being destroyed.

We are not asking for donations, merely the chance to duplicate materials and so preserve their contents. **Those in our families who served and sacrificed deserve to have their stories remembered, and those researching in the future will be grateful to have the materials available to them.**



"Miss Kingsville" A Leading Bomber in R.C.A.F.



Louis Nathan Freedman, sixteen years old, with buddies, photographed in 1918.



SGT. DONALD ARTHUR PASTORIUS Son of Gore C. Pastorius of Gostfield North, who is missing after air operations overseas a week ago. Sgt. Pastorius, who is 20, enlisted in October, 1942.



April 6

The Heinz Co. Are beginning to move toward putting their local plant in order for next season's operations. They have a larger acreage than usual.

John Wall of John Wall & Co., has initiated & built more canning factories in Canada than any other man in the business. He was the man who started all the factories for the British Cannery, which have been recently amalgamated with the Canadian Cannery Ltd. All have been successful.

John Burnley married Hannah Bratt, sister of Charles Bratt, Amherstburg, & of John, George & James Bratt of this district. He was born in Yorkshire, England, & came to Philadelphia at 21, & became a florist. Then, to Sandwich as a market gardener. After living in Malden, they were located 1.5 miles west of Harrow. He died at age 93. When he lived in Harrow area, he joined with a number of Presbyterians who put \$10 each into the old Templars Hall on Potlake & turned it into a Presbyterian mission (1878). The others in the venture were Thomas Hood,

James Howie, Alex Craig, Thomas Lypps, Jacob Fox, James McGill, Alex Hackett, Robert Anderson & George Ray.

April 13

Clark's are going to make a strenuous attempt to secure a steady & adequate supply of water for their factory. A carload of oil well drilling tools have arrived & a deep well will be commenced at once. It will be about 20 inches in diameter.

Frank Stockford took the contract to extend the Hallo store 21 feet at the rear, two stories in height. The addition will be continued in brick to match the rest of the building. The partitions will be removed from the present store & the whole place thrown into one, living rooms being provided in the upper flat. They will have one of the best general stores in the village.

Casualty of the war , Harold Rogers, son of George Rogers, has been wounded. His brother Eric has been in hospital in England for some time.

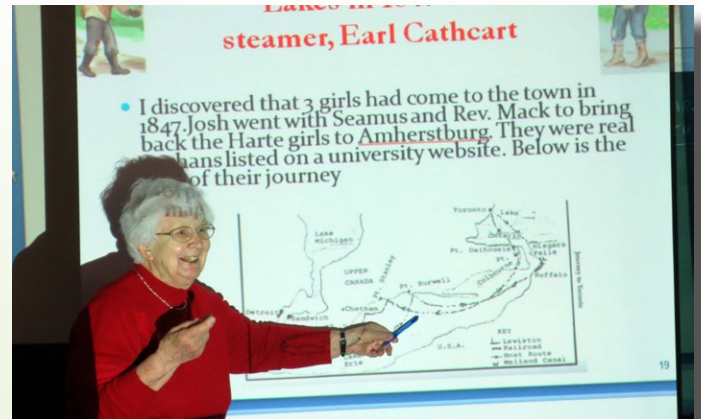
8 HEIRS on the go...

HEIRS member Jane Buttery recently spoke to the Essex Retirees Social Group about her book, "A Surprising Friendship", the story of a white boy in the 1860s who befriends a black boy his age, at a time when mingling was not encouraged.

She provided background on slavery and the settling in the Amherstburg area by many who escaped from servitude, using a video presentation for added interest. Her blend of fact and fiction makes for good historical fiction reading.



HEIRS director, Ted Steele aided Jane, and also gave a short outline of who and what HEIRS is all about, as well as making our latest newsletter available to many who were interested.



HEIRS was also represented at the Loyalist meeting of the Bicentennial Chapter in Kingsville on Saturday, March 11, when retired Major Greg Childs of the Essex Kent Scots spoke about the upcoming national conference for all Loyalist members.

Once again, Ted educated many about HEIRS at meeting's end, & was beseiged with requests for information & newsletters from those in attendance. This scene was repeated at the Kingsville Blood Donor Clinic on Monday, March 13, as information on the group & its activities were quickly snapped up.

HEIRS made the Loyalist Newsletter & the Museum Dispatch from the Kingsville Historical Park available at these gatherings, as we try to support other groups of a historical nature.



“History As It Used to Was”

- by Ted Steele, HEIRS Director

In my many years as a teacher, I did my fair share of “yard duty”. While walking around, maintaining law and order, I was often struck by the ways the children invented to have fun.

While the boys mainly played sports, groups of girls would huddle & run through intricate hand-clapping games accompanied by a quickly recited rhyme. Remember the dance craze called the Macarena a few years back? Other girls would be using a piece of string to weave through fingers in a pattern, & then pass it to a friend from one set of fingers to another, & she would then create another shape & pass it along again. Amazing and creative!

Children have always played games; they used whatever was at hand and their imaginations developed. Through the 1700s and 1800s, playing at cards was a popular adult pastime, though some religious denominations denounced it as immoral.

The young ones might use a stick as a make-believe rifle, and swinging a rope from a tree was always a fun activity. A young girl might have her grandfather fashion a doll from corn husks, and she would play at being a home-maker.



Her brother had “aggies” or marbles, to enjoy competitions with his friends.

At school, a smart teacher would make use of spelling contests as a fun way to practise the spelling rules. Arm wrestling contests gave the boys a chance to compete in a contest of strength, while at the same time they could show off for the young ladies of the group.

The whole group could take part in games of Tag or Hide & Seek, and even allow for a little flirting to occur. Making stilts & walking on them was a great way to show off skill and coordination, and using a metal barrel hoop, propelled by a stick, made for some tricky races, challenging and fun.

Buttons in earlier years were home-made & primitive, and this gave them value, as they were not readily available. Mothers collected buttons to aid when mending clothes, & children soon found them to make good toys; they could be counted, sorted, arranged by size & colour, and even predict the future if a rhyme of “soldier, sailor, tinker, spy” or something similar was chanted. The girl would be sure to find her sweetheart among the young men of the matching occupation, supposedly.

At important times during the year, such as Harvest, there might be a square dance held; the adults would dance & party while the old-timers sat & watched, (and enjoyed some corn liquor perhaps), remembering their own younger days. The children watched & learned, & no doubt tried their own footwork out in imitation of their parents. Life was difficult & challenging, but a bit of fun now & then was essential, as it is now.

How different it all was as Canada was about to be born, 150 years ago.

HEIRS Resource Centre

September to June (excluding December)

Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM - 3PM

Wednesday or for other appts. Call to confirm.

Memberships

\$25 CDN/US per person or couple: May 2017 to April 2018

Send cheque to: HEIRS PO Box 53, Harrow ON Canada N0R 1G0

Please include phone, fax, email, website & names you are now researching.

Non-member user fee for HEIRS Research Library: \$5 / visit (+ photocopy costs).

HEIRS Newsletter

Published 9 times per year, in conjunction with General Meetings held on the 4th Thursday of the month, from September through June (with the exception of December).
Receive full colour newsletters by email & save HEIRS the printing & mailing costs of B&W copies by regular post. Simply provide your email address to our office.



Kudos... to Greg Harrison at The Computer Centre in Harrow who provides HEIRS ongoing support for *all things technical* to help keep our office running smoothly.

DON'T FORGET!

Time to pay your dues to keep our gorgeous newsletters coming to your inbox! Only \$25 per year. Pay by cash at the HEIRS library, or send cheque to HEIRS, 243 McAfee Street, P. O. Box 53, Harrow, Ontario, N0R1G0.
Thank you for your support.



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herniman5@sympatico.ca

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Pauline Baldwin
baldwin1@xplornet.com

Kathy Langlois

kathyl@msni.net

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Chris Carter
cdcarter002@gmail.com

Ted Steele

historynut@outlook.ca
519 733-3456

Membership

Richard Herniman
herniman5@sympatico.ca

Hospitality

Ann Brush
jmb1@xplornet.com

Newsletter

Ted Steele
historynut@outlook.ca