

Vol. 5 – June 2020



HEIRS

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society

n e w s l e t t e r



Next meeting...

September ???

*Stay Safe &
Enjoy your Summer!*

Welcome to the June 2020 newsletter.

I've continued to unearth more family information during our Canada-wide, stay-at-home environment.

Usually at this time of year, I would take a needed break from my family (my genealogy family of course). But, since I've sorted & resorted my sock drawer so many times, and with my only other true hobby being sanitizing my hands, I returned to my 'family search mode' and I've been successful.

I noticed something strange though when I wandered outside (in our own yard) and saw the sprouts of new plants grown from seeds I collected last Fall. I got the same adrenalin rush when I find a missing link in my family story or a photo I never even knew existed.

Could there be a connection?

*Yes... the obvious connection is 'finding your roots' in genealogy and literally seeing the 'roots' when repotting your plants . **But there's more to this... hear me out.***

With discovery, we get that great feeling of accomplishment, that payoff if you will. It hits us when we uncover, learn, or somehow fulfill our human desire – to simply know more. That's why we all remember our teachers (favourites or not). Believe it or not, they did teach us things we didn't know before... and we intrinsically value that.

***Perhaps that's why most of us are having some difficulty in dealing with social distancing.** But have you noticed how older people (me included) are having less issue with this process, than younger folks? I think that's because they have not yet learned as many 'new' things as we have at this point of life. So they're yearning to get out, be with friends, do and try more new things – and this must be driving them crazy.*

And that's why it's very difficult, now that we've had to postpone our HEIRS meetings on the 4th Thursdays of the months lately. It's because most of us come out to learn something new. Yes... the treats are always good, but socializing and the fact that you always walk away knowing something more than you did before – it's your payoff & why you return to future meetings.

We'll get back to our meetings, hopefully starting in September, and likely we'll have some of these new "social norms" still in place. Until then, we need to do the right things –explore new ways to educate ourselves, share our passions with others, and love our friends and family from afar. And we all can do this. Look at it as just more opportunity for those adrenalin-rushing moments of discovery.

This summer, keep digging up your roots, in your family tree or in your garden!

Stay safe. Wash your hands. And please, don't get complacent about your safety.

(My wife says I look better in a mask anyway.) - Rick McCormick

As I write this, May is winding down and we still have more questions than answers about HEIRS' immediate future.

Short Term

We really have no real idea when the Centre will be open to researchers, or even when we can get back in as directors to gear up.

I do expect our Fall meetings to be held as usual, but there is no guarantee at this point.

This fact also means that I cannot pre-book our speakers, although I have 2 or 3 in waiting. I can always do a presentation myself, as several are also on the back burner.

It is our hope to continue with our newsletter communication as best as we possible can. As we explained last month, access to our files at the Resource Centre including our membership email list are now unavailable until after the lockdown.

Members can receive our publication, by contacting me by email at historynut@outlook.com.

Provide your email address & I will forward any newsletters you may have missed, following our April edition.

(March/April combo & May newsletters)

HEIRS Board of Directors Elections

It is important to let all know that our election for the board of directors, normally held during May's meeting, will now be delayed, at least until September. There are 9 spots currently, but long-time director Pauline Baldwin has indicated that she will step down. Of course we would like to say thank you to Pauline for her

work with HEIRS, for her leadership, guidance and all the things she did for us over many years.

Other directors may possibly step down as well. Please consider putting your name forward. This DOES NOT mean you will be assigned a job. It does mean you would, as director, attend 3 or 4 meetings a year to decide matters of policy for HEIRS, and hopefully attend our regular meetings, at least occasionally.

Should you want to help even more, you can choose what task and at what level of involvement, you would enjoy.

I myself watched the directors for a few months, saw where I could be of service and then chose my area of interest. **It is a fun, friendly group that works together very well, and is always finding stories to be explored.**

Special Thanks

Local businessman Michael Tomek dropped in to see us way back in February, and offered to supply HEIRS with photocopy & printer paper on an ongoing basis. This covers a major office expense & it's greatly appreciated by the directors. Community support is important to any volunteer group like ours, & donations confirm our value to the community. Thank you Mike!

If others would like to help us offset some of our costs via in-kind donations, please contact any of our directors for our areas of need.

Looking forward

Not much on summer events is available yet. Explore The Shore & various free concerts might not occur, but stay tuned to local media.

Meanwhile, stay socially distanced, wash your hands & don't lose your sense of humour. **As long as we can laugh, we will be okay.** – Ted
We hope to see you all again in the Fall!

The Amherstburg Echo.

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE COUNTY

Vol. XXX No. 15.

AMHERSTBURG, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1904.

Whole No. 2,474

100 ACRES FOR SALE.

In 2nd concession, Anderdon Township, about 4 miles from Amherstburg, 20 acres of bush, some small buildings. For further particulars and price, see

FALLS BROS., Agts.,
Amherstburg.

THE SOVEREIGN BANK OF CANADA.

HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO, ONT.

CAPITAL PAID UP \$3,000,000
SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS, 350,000
ASSETS 50,000

H. S. HOLT, ESQ., President. D. M. STEWART, General Manager.

SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT.
Interest allowed on Deposits of \$1.00 and upwards at highest current rate.
Farmers' Notes Discounted at lowest possible rates.

HARROW BRANCH. C. A. MacMAHON, Manager.
AMHERSTBURG BRANCH. M. I. LANE, Manager.

LOST.

LOST—Strayed from my place, Vereker, on Sunday, Feb. 28th, a black white and tan English setter bitch, answering to the name "Lady". Finder will receive liberal reward by returning to me or on being notified I will go after her. A. H. LINDSAY, Vereker.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL.

Miss Wm. Hanson's condition kept about the same. Dr. McLaughlin says the baby is doing well. He is...

MALDEN.

Ernest McGee, of Flint, Mich spent Sunday at home.

Mrs. Frank Hunt has been suffering from an attack of la grippe.

Win. Golden suffering from being attacked of influenza rheumatism.

Mrs. Alice McLean, of Windsor, is on her feet after being confined.

BROOKER vs. AMHERSTBURG.

Judge McHugh Refuses to Grant New Trial.
At the recent sittings of the Division Court in Amherstburg, Mrs. James Brooker sued the corporation of Amherstburg, for injuries sustained alleged to have been due to a fall on a defective sidewalk. She was awarded \$80 and costs. The town, through their solicitor, Davis & Davis, applied for a new trial on the ground of the plaintiff's alleged carelessness. The learned Judge refused to grant the appeal and the text of his decision is as below:

BROOKER vs. AMHERSTBURG.—Mr. Rough for Plaintiff, D. B. Davis for defendant. This action was tried before me at the last sitting of the Division Court at Amherstburg. It is brought by the plaintiff to recover damages for personal injuries sustained by the female plaintiff by falling on a sidewalk on Fort St., which the plaintiff alleges was in a dangerous state of disrepair. It is pleaded by counsel for the defendant that if the plaintiff has a good cause of action the damages claimed are less than they would be entitled to recover. The law requires a municipal corporation to keep its streets and highways under its control in repair and if it neglects to perform that duty the law provides that it shall be civilly responsible for all damages sustained by any person by reason of such default. The defendant corporation applies to set aside the judgment entered hereon on the ground that there is no evidence that the sidewalk in question was in such a dangerous state as to justify the award of damages. I am satisfied that the plaintiff's case is not an open question of fact, and that she is entitled to recover. I will therefore grant a new trial, and the case will be re-tried on the 11th inst. at 10 o'clock a.m. I will reserve the question of costs to be decided by me at the re-trial.

ANDERDON COUNCIL.

Saturday, Feb. 27th.
Council met in regular session with all members present. Moved by Messrs. Grodin and Cote, that the minutes just read be adopted.—Carried. Moved by Messrs. Vollans and Cote that Fred Pagau get a warrant for \$4 groceries furnished to the Verkeres.—Carried. Moved by Messrs. Cote and Wilburt, that Antonio Lister get a clearing ice from 60 and Wilburt, that Messrs. Cote and Wilburt get a bridge on south side of road. Moved by Messrs. Vollans and Cote that Isaac Grodin refund of dog tax.—Carried. Moved by Messrs. Cote and Wilburt that Harold Wainwright get a side line in or for the water property. Moved by Messrs. Cote and Wilburt that Willis Howard get a statute labour. Moved by Messrs. Cote and Wilburt that Harold Wainwright get a side line in or for the water property. Moved by Messrs. Cote and Wilburt that Willis Howard get a statute labour. Moved by Messrs. Cote and Wilburt that Harold Wainwright get a side line in or for the water property.

BURK BROS.



LIME FOR SALE
IN
CARLOAD LOTS.

June 11

A special service for old people will be held at the Harrow Baptist Church on the occasion of the birthday of Hiram Rosebrugh, who has held office of senior deacon for many years. He has reached the age of 91 years. All old people of the township are invited. Automobiles will be provided.

“Should Teachers’ Salaries Increase?” The trustees of several of our rural schools are now facing the problem of teachers’ salaries. They realize it is most essential to have good teachers as rural children need as thorough an education as do city children. However, some trustees do not appreciate the fact that teachers have as large expenses to meet as other people have. Several teachers have enumerated their expenses & the following is a fair average for a period of one year:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Railway fares—\$20 | Books—\$10 |
| Board—\$354 | Clothing & sundries—\$400 |
| Laundry—\$26 | Stamps, stationery, and church offerings, etc.—\$80 |
| Superannuation—\$20 | |

Total of \$920 for the year.

The list of expenses does not include any sums for recreation, doctor bills or music lessons. Thus we see that the teacher who receives less than \$900 a year is charitably rendering a part of her services. Are our taxpayers so poor that they have to accept charity? None of us wish to, and we are quite willing that our trustees increase our teachers’ salaries.

June 16

Mrs. Joseph Bowring writes...“I saw in the Echo an account of Eb Wright having some relics. Well, I have a hoe that belonged to his great grandfather who owned the farm where John Staddon now lives, and that is where the hoe did its work. I have a Dutch Oven I use at Christmas to roast turkey, goose or duck, and broiler for steak or fish. These belonged to my grandfather Wm Munger over 110 years ago.

They were given to me by my mother-in-law, his daughter. I have a lamp made by Uncle Peter Scratch over a century ago for my father-in-law. It uses lard oil and he used it for night work in his shoe-making shop. Ezekiel Bowring used it for years. Uncle Peter’s initials, “P.S.” are on the lamp.

June 18

Frank Dennis, son of Walter Dennis, formerly of Pleasant Valley, died in Detroit on June 15. Aged 50 years, he leaves a widow and one son. Burial at Central Grove. Survived by his father who lives in Detroit, by 2 brothers (Purdy & Fred) & 3 sisters (Mrs Howard & Mrs Peters of Detroit, and Mrs Ward of Windsor). His wife was Martha Banks, daughter of Anthony Banks, a resident of Colchester South.

June 25

Village streets have quite a citified appearance with No Parking signs. Trustees purchased a dozen & will distribute them in the restricted areas. 2 large signs were purchased for 2 principal corners instructing motorists to turn right.

Resentment shown at first to the removal of posts, has disappeared almost entirely. People coming here to trade are better satisfied to use the convenience of tying horses off Main Street.

Efforts of Harrow Police Trustees to improve general appearance of streets was well received. A new spirit is abroad, a spirit of improvement in one's home surroundings. Harrow with its up to date stores and good service has always been the envy of villages less fortunate in their supply of merchants, business and professional men with modern conceptions of duty to their village and service to the community.

It is the very spirit of improvement that refuses to tolerate dirty schoolhouses, unkempt graveyards and down-at-the-heel private premises. It pervades the whole "Banana Belt" for nowhere else in the county does the casual traveller behold more prosperous farmers with large modern buildings, comfortable convenient houses and a healthy progressive outlook on life.

Men who will not tolerate mismanagement around their own homes nor inefficiency in the conduct of their business. These are the men whose cooperation with the businessmen are bound to keep Harrow in the forefront of market villages with becoming civic pride in its surroundings and always with a keen outlook for physical improvements such as are being carried out from day to day.

28 candidates wrote entrance to High School examinations last week, under the supervision of W J Elliott, principal of Kingsville Public School. Those who wrote were:

Harrow School: Kathleen Ferriss, Lalia Pastorius, Alger Ferriss, Darryl Pastorius, Claud Herniman, Wilfred Barron, Hugh McLean, Maurine Richardson, Fred Sparling;

Oxley School: Mary Lou Waters, W D Hughson, Velma N Ferriss, Ralph A Wright, Donald M McDonald

SS #2 Burwell Seymore; **SS #3** Herbert Bondy

SS#4 Carl Richardson, Madeline Taylor

SS #5 Madolin Eede, Edith Birch, Eva Brown, Hannah Eede, Glenn Lypps, Allen Baltzer, Bernice McLean;

SS #6 Norman A. Affleck; **SS #7** Winnifred Henshaw;

SS #18 Marjorie Ford.

While heavy rain last week, after a severe drought, was much appreciated the hail brought a great deal of damage from Lloyd Wright's to Colchester Village, a narrow streak being swept almost bare by wind and hail. Norman Martin's oats, tobacco and wheat were stripped, all windows on the west side of his housebroken.

150 young chickens drowned. A J Fox lost 47 chickens killed by hailstones as big as walnuts striking them on the head. It fell with the velocity of bullets. Ernest Byron lost considerable tobacco and F H Ferriss' 20-acre field, part of which was replanted only that day, was almost totally destroyed.

6 Hidden Treasure

The currently running TV series 'The Curse of Oak Island', involves the intensive search on a small island off Nova Scotia, reputedly for the resting place of fabulous riches.



First discovered in the 1790s, an ancient shaft has now been explored to a 180 foot depth, and to date, only clues have been found. It has been the cause of endless speculation in the following 2 centuries.

I read a Readers' Digest article back in 1965 & it has fascinated me (as well as many others) ever since. Read it yourself, just Google 'Oak Island Readers Digest'.

Obviously something of huge value was buried there, judging by the mammoth efforts made by whoever constructed the 'Money Pit' to protect its contents including booby traps and flood tunnels. The search continues but doesn't seem to be nearing the answer to what is buried there, and who buried it and why.

I'm not going to retell all efforts that have been made or what has been found. Instead, I want to look at the possible things buried, to which history does give some credence. **Not just wild theories for the most part, there is some element of possible truth to them.**

In the beginning, most people were inclined to think of Spanish gold being buried by pirates. In the early to mid-1700s. Piracy was common, with pirates like the famous Blackbeard needing someplace to hide their stolen treasure. Coastal towns along the Carolinas were often used, as were lonely unpopulated islands. It is possible, knowing this historical fact, that pirates might be the source of the items buried on Oak Island.



But were there pirates this far north of the Caribbean?

Yes... although they were often called 'privateers'. They were given permission by the British to raid Spanish ships during hostilities, or even French ships, since France & Britain were at war through the 1700s at least.

This was 'legalized' piracy to some degree, but when outlawed by Britain, many of them became 'pirates', attacking whomever they came across. Seizing valuables & eliminating witnesses, became the rule of the day for them and much treasure has never been located. By the late 1700s, piracy was sporadic but much less prevalent than it had once been.

One Canadian pirate was Maria Lindsey Cobham, one of very few women to make a career in this fashion. Along with her husband

Eric Cobham, she and her crew set up a base on Newfoundland's western coast and from there raided ships in the Gulf of St Lawrence, which would have been mainly ships arriving from France.

Their base was safe, as shoals and reefs prevented any warships from approaching while their smaller sloop could navigate these shallow waters.

From 1740 onward, they became a threat to shipping & would make their raids, take the items they wanted from ships, then kill anyone who might testify against them & send those ships to the bottom of the bay.

The difficulty in proving these details is partly because of the few records, written down at the time, & the tendency to exaggerate stories in their retelling. After retiring wealthy, Maria was found dead near the chateau they owned

in France & Eric lay dying not long after. Eric dictated a confession on his deathbed, outlining their deeds & the priest had it printed as small pamphlets.

The three Cobham children were shocked by the details. They bought up every copy they could find, and destroyed them. Only 1 tattered copy apparently still exists, in a French museum, and is kept well locked away from general viewing.

As for the Oak Island mystery, It has long been suspected that Captain Kidd or Blackbeard might have buried their treasures from raided Spanish galleons on the Island.

But again this is just speculation. There are other possible (and in my view more likely) sources for any buried treasure on Oak Island, but that discussion will wait for our next newsletter.



History As It Used to Was...

- by Ted Steele, HEIRS Director

Part 3 of my Codes & Ciphers trilogy – with a distinctly feminine twist.

For centuries, women have been seen during times of war as little more than spectators- not important to, or involved in the outcome of the fighting.

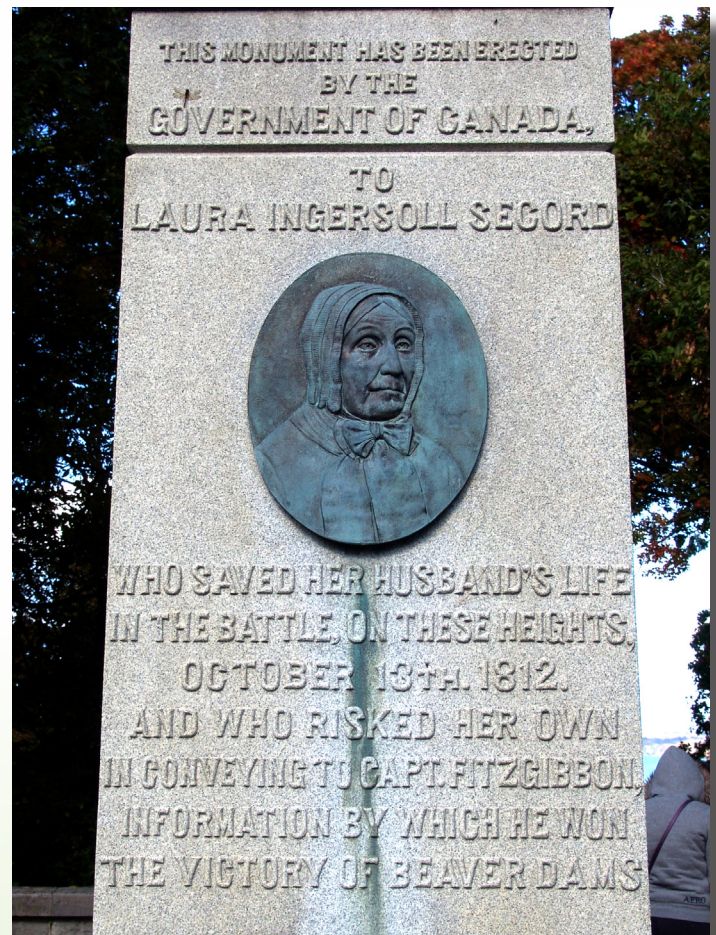
In truth, women have always found ways to be a part of the events taking place, by gathering information and cleverly transferring their knowledge to the military. This often meant disguising their activities, even while being closely watched, and in turn this meant that codes were necessary to safely pass along what they had learned.

The American Revolution saw women watching events of the day unfold while they went about their daily chores. As they noted these events, they invented codes for passing information.

One code involved laundry on clotheslines.... the code was based on patterns when it was hung out to dry.

The colours, the number of sheets, & the way these items were arranged on the lines were all involved in message passing, and part of the way women contributed to the war effort.

The war of 1812 saw Laura Secord overhear vital information by invading American soldiers. She made her way through rough terrain to



British lines and warned the British and Canadian forces of impending invasion, being therefore, a large part of the success in repelling these invaders.

Women have always found ways to be involved.

In more recent times, women have watched events unfold around them while they sat, busy with their ever-present knitting. Who would have guessed that they were also recording events within the items they were knitting, subtly making slight variations in their patterns to form secret codes?

Knitters know that you can use 2 types of stitches (knit and purl) to form letters and eventually messages. One creates a hole in the item being knitted, while the other creates a small bump.

This is a form of code called steganography by which messages are hidden physically. Other examples are Morse code hidden in book pages, or a message hidden within an image on a page.

Knitting as a method to hide messages is not a common spy technique, but using knitting as a cover to go unnoticed is more common.

During the American Revolution, a woman named Molly Ranker knitted and watched British ship movements. She then wrote small notes on paper, hid them in balls of wool, and threw them over a cliff to Patriots waiting below.



During WW 1, a Belgian woman who had a German officer quartered with them sat and knitted while sending a message to her children one floor below, by tapping a message with her heels on the floor.

Making use of the stereotype image of a seemingly harmless woman, paying attention only to her knitting, has made many women extremely valuable in times of turmoil, giving them the ability to become invisible, while observing a great deal.



As evidenced in these Library of Congress images, knitting also served as a pastime & rehabilitation during convalescence of injured soldiers during World War 1.

HEIRS RESOURCE CENTRE

Open September - June (December excepted)

Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM - 3PM

Call to confirm Wednesday or other appointments.

Newsletter

Published 9 times per year, in conjunction with General Meetings held on the 4th Thursday of the month, September to June, (December excepted).

Receive full colour newsletters by email, or a B&W print version by regular post. Simply provide your email or street address to our office.

Memberships

\$30 CDN / U.S. per person or couple.

Memberships run May 1st - April 30th, annually.

Send membership cheque to:

HEIRS PO Box 53, Harrow
ON, Canada N0R 1G0

Please include phone, postal address, email & family names you are now researching.

Non-member using Research Library

\$10 per visit (+ photocopy costs).

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243 McAfee St., PO Box 53,
Harrow, ON Canada N0R 1G0

Harrow & Colchester South
Community Centre (Arena Bldg.)

Phone 519 738-3700

Email hheritage@bellnet.ca

Website www.HEIRS.ca

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

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