

Vol. 1– January 2014

H.E.I.R.S.

newsletter

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society



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Inside this Issue...

January Meeting: Partying like a Pioneer!

Newsletter News!

Welcome to the January issue of the HEIRS newsletter.

So... how many resolutions have you broken so far?

Why not make a new one, and plan to join fellow HEIRS members more frequently at our upcoming meetings? The more folks we have come out, the more interaction and valuable tips, leads and methods you will learn, all to help you uncover even more about your family histories and the events that shaped their past lives.

Take some time to get to know our resources better, so if someone you know is looking for something particular about their family, you can be their resource and refer them to our Resource Centre.

***Hey... why not resolve to make 2014, the year you help someone else discover just one more thing about their ancestors?
It'll be fun!***

January Meeting

When: Thursday, January 23rd, 1:30 PM

Where: Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Centre

Party like it's 1899!

HEIRS January meeting will focus on the social events of the pioneers and how they partied, how they courted & sparked, and the ways they found to have a good time in spite of heavy workloads and demanding schedules (sound familiar?).

Should be an interesting look back at how our ancestors made merry. Let's start the New Year off with romance in the air. See you there?

The full size cover image has an inscription of "Lover's Lane" Oxley, Ontario inserted into this great picture, taken of young folks on a beautiful day.

Anyone recognize kin folk?



HEIRS met on Thursday, November 28th for the last time in 2013. We brought in the Christmas season with speaker Janet Cobban of the J R Park Homestead. She told of Christmases of the 1800s, and how the pioneers decorated and enjoyed the winter holiday season.

Her displays of snowshoes, sleigh bells and plants used to decorate the homes were interesting and educational. We also learned of the “Kissing Ball” hung in a strategic location in the household to add to the merriment.

The advantages of sleighs over wagons was outlined as sleighs did not need to follow roads, were easily set back upright if tipped over, and allowed the young people to snuggle a bit under the heavy furs used for warmth (the “back seats” of the time).

Following Janet’s talk, we enjoyed singing the old Christmas carols, led by director Kathy Langlois, with keyboard accompaniment by HEIRS member Nancy Murphy.



We adjourned to enjoy the Christmas punch and goodies, and social time together.



Videos at the Resource Centre

HEIRS has in its collection of materials a number of video titles on local topics of interest which can be borrowed. This month we feature a few of these to tempt our members to “check them out” (literally)!

The first, “**Heritage Essex Inc.**” is a set of 3 short videos. The first of these is entitled “**Essex Is A Blast**”, the story of how downtown Essex has withstood two major explosions (1907 and 1980) In the latter, 2 people were killed, and millions of dollars were lost in property damage

The second title is “**Father of Essex, John Milne**”. He was a Scottish immigrant who helped settle the area, became the first mayor, and was a leading citizen for most of his life. He died in 1935 at the age of 92.

Part three is called “**Rails Through Essex**”, and tells of the Canadian Southern Railway” which passed through Essex Centre and was a major impetus to local development. In 1908 the Windsor-Essex-Leamington Electric Rail line was added and until 1935, crossed the county through Essex Centre, adding to its importance as a hub for business and social activities.



All 3 features take less than an hour to view in total, but provide a good overview of how Essex County developed over the 20th century, and how the various small communities in the county have been interconnected in many ways.



The second DVD is “**The Last Train Through Harrow**”, telling of the end of Harrow being a railway terminus. In June of 1991, the rail era ended for Harrow; it had been a major factor in the development of the community but passed into memory. This intriguing look back reminds us of its role in the town of Harrow and its place in Essex County.

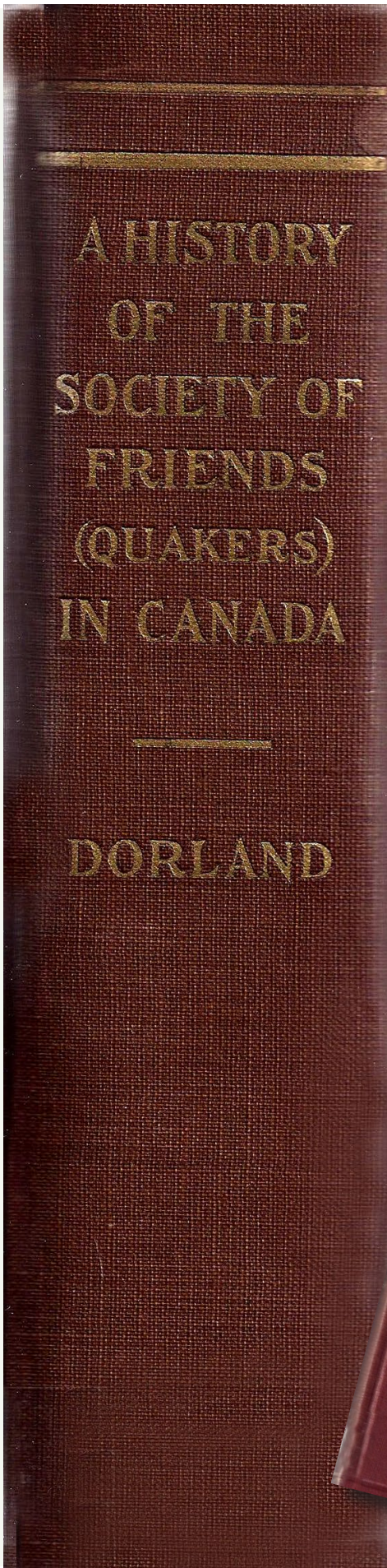
A History of the Society of Friends (Quakers) In Canada - by Arthur Garrett Dorland, printed 1927

During the American Revolution, many Quaker families strove to remain neutral and not take part in the fighting at all. This became impossible due to pressure from both sides in the fight; many of these families chose to leave their homes, especially in Pennsylvania and adjoining areas. Others chose to remain and fight (Fighting Quakers).

By 1786, the first of these arrived in the Niagara region, the Dennis family. Others soon followed and a community of Friends was established and spread. They were welcomed by British authorities as desirable people to settle the wilderness, as they were hard-working and socially proper in behaviour. Over the years, family members spread and the Quaker religion has faded in importance, so that many families, including local Essex families, can be traced back to these early immigrants, and these descendants may be totally unaware of their Quaker roots.

This book of 329 pages, contains many photos, and tells the story of these arrivals, pointing out that the Quakers had been major players in the Underground Railroad, helping many blacks escape slavery to find safety here in Canada. They have played a significant role in our history as a nation, taking a stand against the Family Compact in the 1830s to help bring responsible government, and acting as a Christian conscience in the way our society evolved. Often seen as just the figure on the Quaker Oats products, the original Friends were a diverse and most interesting group whose story has been overlooked.

You will not only enjoy the story of the people, but may well find that there are some up-to-now hidden connections between your family and them. Genealogical research has a way of surprising us!





From the HEIRS mailbag...

HEIRS had come into possession of a book on the KRATZ family, written entirely in German, thanks to Mrs. Edith Woodbridge who donated it. The English version is long out of print, which left HEIRS in a quandary as to what should be done.

The book is filled with photos of the Kratz ancestors of Germany/ Bavaria, and the names of the many individuals are given, as well as events occurring in the ancestral villages. To the right person, this would be a treasure; but we had to locate that right person.



The files at HEIRS showed that one of our members, Ken Turner, (who is greatly involved with restoring the pioneer cemeteries) is indeed a descendent of Leonard Kratz (or Scratch). When contacted, Ken expressed his desire to add the book to his collection of family materials, and this is being arranged.

HEIRS loves to assist our membership in their family research... can we help you with your family tree discoveries?

HEIRS member, Murray Stewart, has an unusual request. He purchased an old family Bible some years ago in Midland, for a mere one dollar. Since it is NOT his family in the Bible, he would like to locate anyone who does have ties with this family, and to restore it to the family who ought to have it. His description of the book is as follows:

Measures 2 inches, by 4 x 7 inches, leather bound, well thumbed, some minor damage but in overall good condition. Published by Andrus & Judd, 1833. These notes are on front and rear pages in long hand, some smudging, watermarks and illegibility.

Front 2 pages:

Charles C. Stocking Bible, Springfield, April 19, 1833

Rear 3 pages:

Charles Stocking married Lyvia Jan 21, 1834

Philania Stocking b. March 17, 1835

Evernin(?) Stocking b. Dec 30, 1836

Mary Stocking b. Sept. 19, 1838

Lyvia & Lucier Stocking b. Sept. 6, 1840

Philania d. 1849

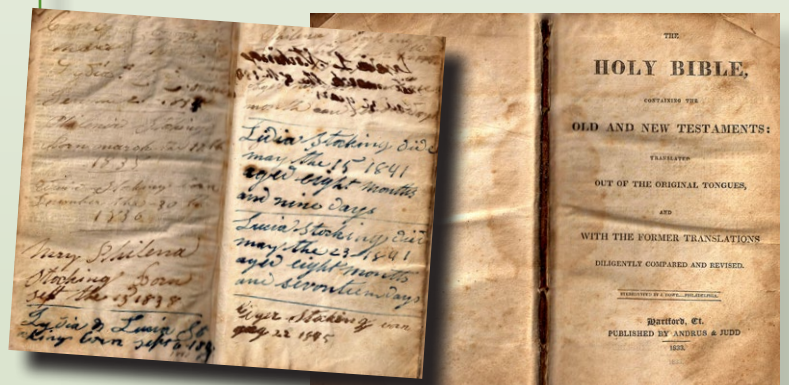
Lyvia & Lucier Stocking d. May, 1841

Eiger Stocking b. Aug 22, 1845

Lyvia Stocking d. Mar 8, 1849, aged 32 yrs.

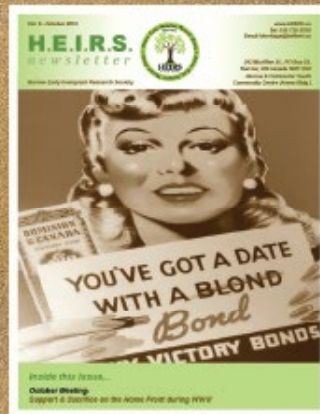
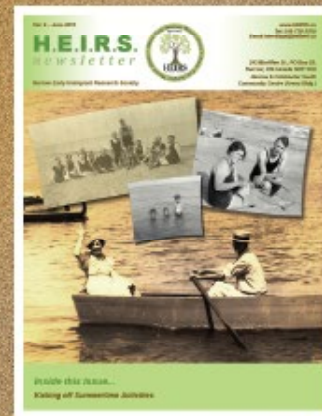
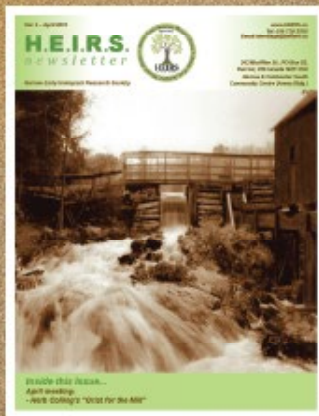
Entries stopped on the death of Charles' wife, & shows the high mortality rate of the time. Stocking is a common name in the U.S. (less so in Canada), with 10 "Springfields" in the U.S.

If you can help with more information, or this connects with your own family, please contact Ted Steele at twsteele@sympatico.ca or through HEIRS at hheritage@bellnet.ca.

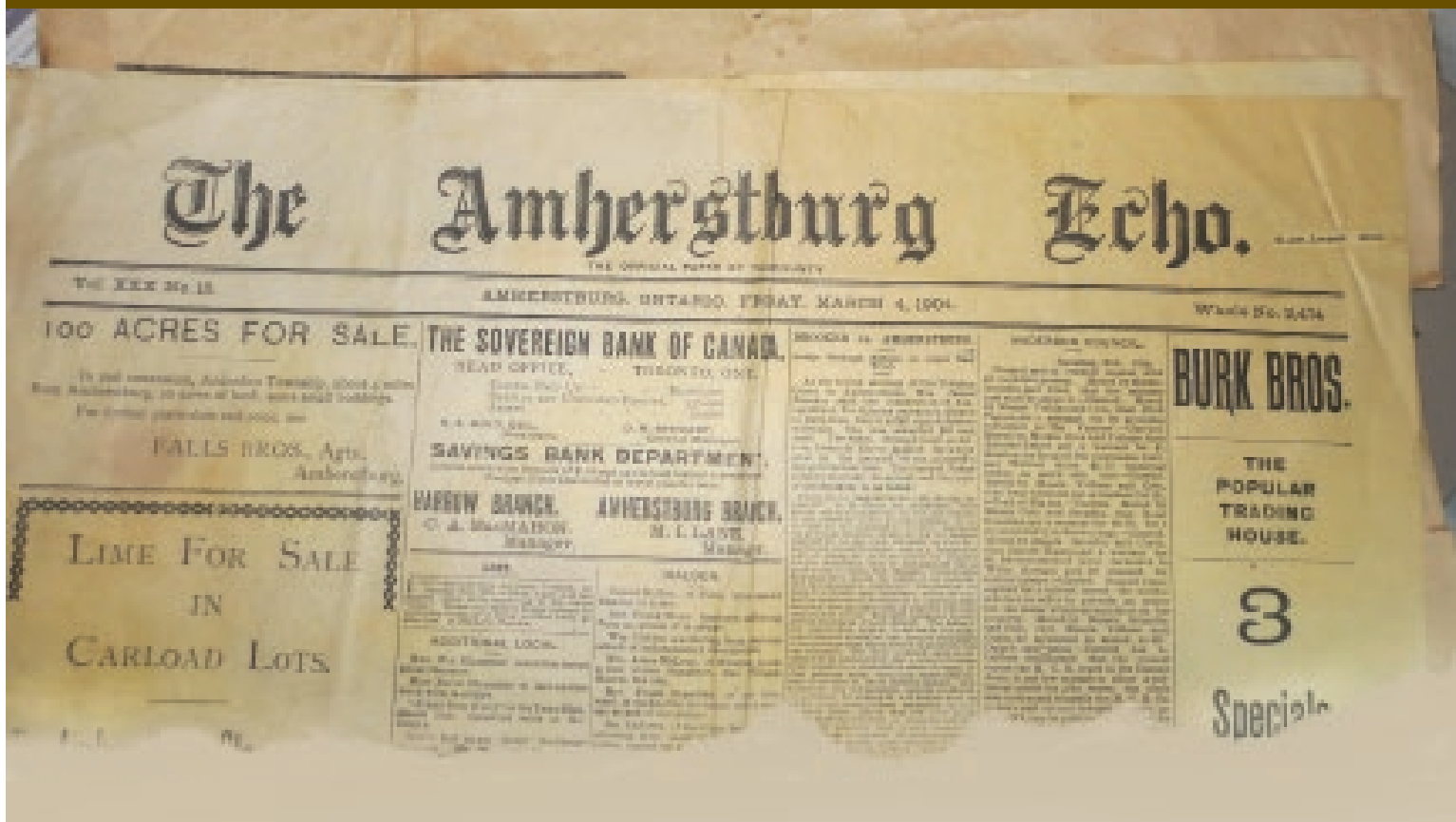


HEIRS Newsletters

2013



HEIRS Director, Ted Steele, recently took the opportunity to speak to the Ontario Genealogy Society, both Kent and Essex chapters, on the topic of "The Military History of the Steele Family". This of course, offered the perfect venue for enlightening people about what HEIRS is, what we do and what we have to offer. Since these two November presentations, HEIRS has had enquiries and visits, as well as a few new members. As the group becomes better known, we are able to help even more individuals with their own family research. *Our group continues to grow!*



January 2

W. A. McCormick acclaimed reeve; trustees acclaimed were: Charles Clark, Forest Ferriss and W. H. Ferriss.

Ernest Pastorius won second place at the Essex Shoot, dividing Bay and Day, who are acknowledged to be the crack shots of Canada. Mr. Pastorius' feat is all the greater from the fact that he gets only occasional practice, while the other 2 are at it almost constantly.

January 9

McDonald, son and Clark sold a Ford auto to John Parker. Fords are getting to be the style.

Church and Sunday School executive elected: Rev. George McGregor, Ernest Iler, Addie Heaton, Mrs. Asa Tofflemire, John Parker, Miss Grace McCormick, John McIntyre G. E. Johnson and Ed Heaton.

January 30

A poor year for tobacco; damaged by hail in 1913; 12 cents a pound for good stuff.

Mrs. Elihu Pastorius, nee Elizabeth Quick, daughter of William Quick of Colchester North, born near Vereker; siblings living: Lennox Quick of Edgar Mills, Herman of Colchester North, Malcolm of Sandwich, William of Gesto, and a sister, Mrs. George Pastorius of Colchester South. She married Elihu 43 years ago, and had a family of 10 children; Oscar M. Of Forest, Mrs. Vernal Mustard and Mrs. Herman Rhyndress, of Harrow, Ernest, Elson, and Gore, all of Colchester South, Roy of Windsor, Mrs. James Dorsey of Amherstburg.

Elihu had lived in Colchester North and South and Essex before moving to Harrow. They had just purchased a home in Kingsville, and were preparing to move there.

This information was summarized in an HEIRS newsletter in 1994, written by long-time member / director, Edith Woodbridge. The original source was the Amherstburg Echo of April 18, 1930. We thought it would be good, 20 years later, to share this article once again.

At a meeting at the Women's Institute, Mrs. C. I. Pastorius gave a review of Harrow since 1880. She had lived in Harrow for 53 years, and was involved in many community activities. Her talk started with the east side of the village, on the north side (King St. East). The first house belonged to Mr. Best, then Mr. Woughter, then the Methodist Church, the school, (Mr. Joseph Drummond as teacher), the Town Hall, the house of Thomas Thompson, Alfred Munger's store occupied by Mr. Hubby, and Mr. Calvert, a shoemaker on the Willam Wright property. On this property stood 2 other houses, one used by Patton, the Miller, and one by John McAffee, who also occupied the Wright store.

James McQueen conducted the hotel on the opposite (north) corner. North on Queen Street were the blacksmith and wagon shops. West of McQueen's Hotel was Gobel's store and post office, and other dwellings; property of John Best followed, then the Patton grist mill.

From the east end of King Street, on the south side, were: William Fulmer's house, George and Eliza Fulmer, a house later occupied by Frank B. Iler, then J. Woughter's workshop, where he made coffins. Then the old shingle mill, Arthur Munger's house and John Munger, who repaired guns and did a variety of iron work. Next on Snake Lane was "Sunny" Griffin's house, and then Wallace Webster had a place later owned by Roy Pastorius.

On the corner of Snake Lane, only corner east of Erie, on the main road, was a log school for the 'coloured people'. Mr. Hyder lived next, and then Mr. Hans, Mr. Carr in the hotel there - corner of McAffee - was used for a dwelling, then a wagon and blacksmith shop owned by Walter and Ira Pastorius. This was the first business on the south side of the road. The Walter's brick stone house was next, (later used as Dr. Veale's office), then a small house of S. Gobel, the Baptist Church, Hiram Thornton's house, the J. Henderson house and finally David Quick's house on the corner of Erie Road.

After disposing of the wagon business, Ira Pastorius bought property later owned by Richardson's, Arner's Butcher Shop, the telephone office, Webster's shop, Dr. Veale's place and the Cunningham store. He bought the property later owned Madill & Co. (previously owned by McAffee) and he built up the furniture and undertaking business.

After the death of John McAffee, the post office went to Ira, and he added a savings bank and money postal order department. He also bought the Thompson place, northeast corner of Walnut and King. Ira Pastorius also bought the corner where the Oddfellows building stands, and the land north on Queen. He helped make Harrow a police village, and was on the first trustee board which bought the first fire engine by private subscription.



Hours of Operation: September to June (excluding December)

Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM - 3PM, Wednesday 9 - Noon. Please call for appointments for other times.

**Memberships Due: May 2014 to April 2015: \$20 per person / couple (CDN / U.S.)
Send cheque to: HEIRS, PO Box 53, Harrow ON Canada N0R 1G0**

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

Non-member user fee for HEIRS Research Library, as of January 2013: \$5 / visit (+ photocopy costs).

HEIRS Newsletter

The HEIRS newsletter is 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).

Newsletters via Email

If you currently receive our newsletter by mail and would prefer to receive it by email, simply provide your email address to any one of our newsletter committee members. Not only will you be able to archive the full colour newsletter PDF easily on your computer, it will save HEIRS the extra handling, reproduction and mailing costs.

Special thanks to Greg Harrison at the Computer Centre in Harrow, for his ongoing support of all things technical, setting up our new equipment, and keeping things running smoothly.



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