

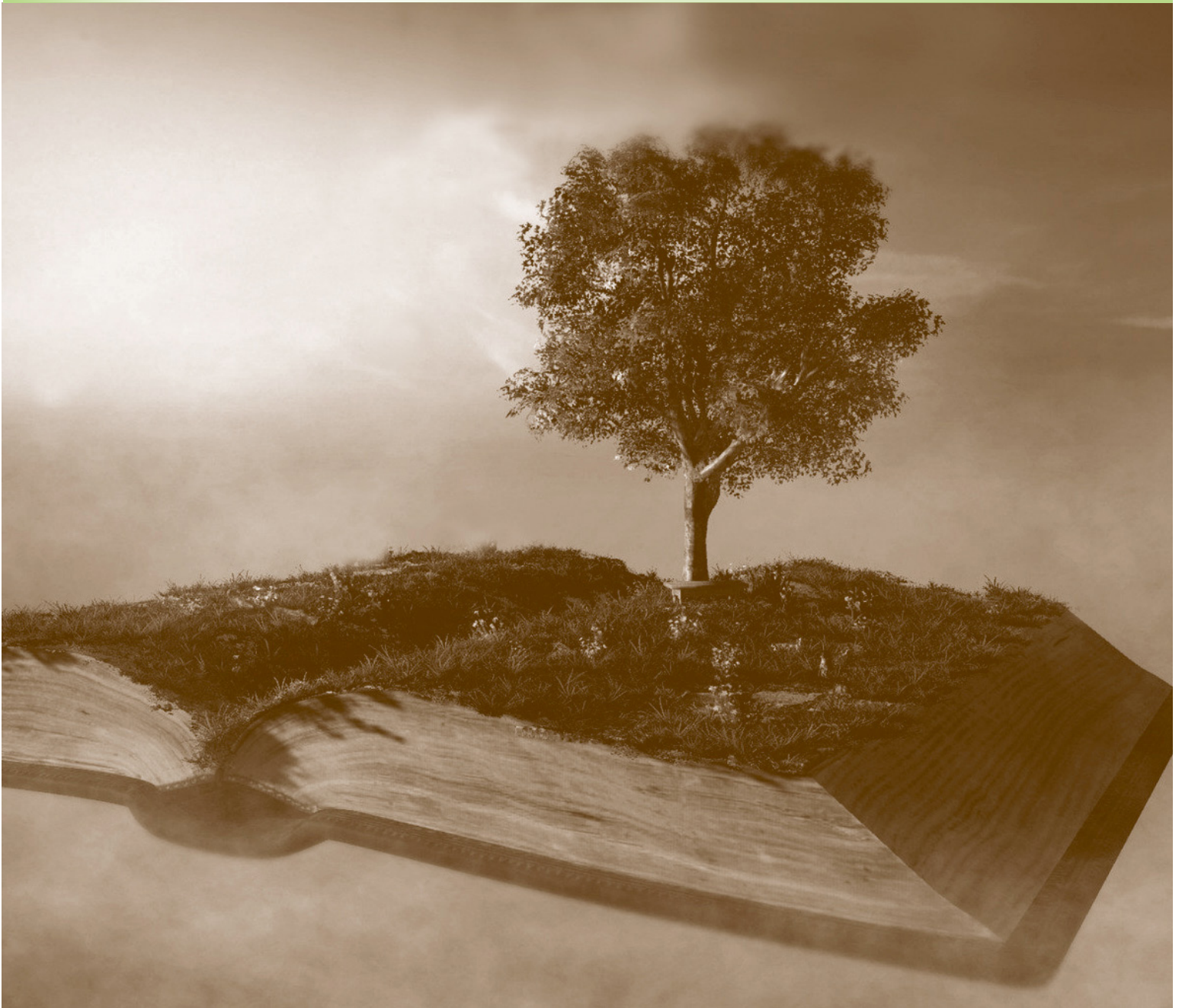
Vol. 6 – September 2020



HEIRS

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society

n e w s l e t t e r



*Physical distancing, washing hands, wearing a mask...
(or what we did on our summer 'vacation')*

2 In memoriam

We present the September 2020 newsletter, with heavy hearts.

2020 has been a most difficult year for HEIRS. In February, Covid struck & our research centre was shut down with very little notice. We were unable to retrieve our membership contacts to keep all in touch. Over the last 6 months, plans were cancelled or put on hold.

*Then In August, we lost our librarian/secretary, Kathy Langlois suddenly. In September we learned of the passing of former president, Doug Horne. Just recently, we lost president Richard Herniman. As you can imagine, the loss of these friends & valuable co-workers has been difficult. **Each contributed greatly and will be missed in many ways.***

HEIRS President, Richard Herniman passed away on September 25, 2020

Richard was president of HEIRS for the past 10 years. He has in his own quiet way, done much to keep our group running smoothly.

He seemed to know every local official and committee member and just who to call to get answers. His ability to make sure the directors all 'played nice', smoothed over disagreements and even soothed hurt feelings at times.

Richard loved researching local families and buildings, and was very interested in preserving the history of the Harrow area.

He has been a gentleman & a leader - we will miss his friendship and valuable contributions to our activities.



Update from HEIRS Directors...

As this difficult year moves along, HEIRS has made some difficult decisions. Our AGM & directors elections postponed from May, will be rescheduled in the new year.

At best, our next meeting will be January 2021. Until then, we will strive to provide our newsletters to members for the remainder of 2020. Back issues if missed, starting with the March/April issue can be requested direct from me at historynut@outlook.com. Membership dues adjustment is being discussed & plans are to announce them in our October issue. Let's all stay calm, do what we know is needed, and take care of our families. – Ted Steele

With much sadness, HEIRS announces the passing of long-time member & director, Kathy Langlois, on August 15th, 2020.

Kathy taught at St. Anthony's school for many years in Harrow, and was a choir member at St. Clement Parish in McGregor.

Kathy was the Personnel Director for Music Express, and also sang soprano in this dynamic, variety-style show band from the southwestern Ontario region that performs around the county.

For approximately 15 years she has been a valued member of HEIRS, serving as both secretary and librarian for the group. Her efforts have greatly assisted HEIRS to better serve the community, with office tasks efficiently being completed by Kathy. We will miss her laugh and her attention to detail.



Kathy leaves us all with good memories. She will be missed.

HEIRS past-president Doug Horne: August 29th, 2020.

With sadness, HEIRS informs our members of the passing of former HEIRS president, Doug Horne at 66 years of age.

Doug was a director, a long-time member of the Kingsville Golf and Country Club, as well as being a huge fan of both the Montreal Canadians and Toronto Blue Jays.

Doug was the one person most responsible for my becoming involved with HEIRS. Unfortunately, Doug had been in declining health for some time.

RIP Doug.

-Ted Steele



Instead of going around the barbed wire fence, he just seized the pole and vaulted it like a boy, and duplicated it on the way going back. Mr. Larabee's mother lived to be 100.

A lawn social was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Butler to raise funds to beautify the cemeteries at Colchester. \$90 will be applied to the work planned by the Women's Institute.

John Readman introduced the program: addresses by Rev. C. R. Durrant and Mrs. Eva Clark, president of the W. I. Readings by Mrs. Allan Howie, Mrs. George Catherwood, and Mrs. Barry. Vocals selections by the Wright brothers, and a duet by Mrs. Chisholm and Miss Jean Hilton.

August 27

Mrs. M. I. Carleton of St. Clair, Michigan, and Mrs. Mary Spears of Romulus, Wayne County, Michigan are visiting relatives. They are related to Wrights, Ferrisses, McCormicks and Larabees. It is years since they were here, and they see great improvements in the county.

A bunch of lads must have taken Jesse James or Nick Carter's class stories to heart, for Friday night when the Pere-Marquette Eastbound Highball stopped at New Canaan for water, some 15 youths loomed up in the dark, forced the door of a car open and proceeded to rob it of all the merchandise it contained. A brakeman, making his rounds to examine the wheels was told to "get" and he lost no time obeying.

The highwayman kept at it until the train pulled out. Railway detectives are making a thorough search for the guilty parties.

September 3

Charles Thompson, age 79 on the 27th of Feb. Last native of this township, son of Lennox Thompson, native of Antrim County, Ireland. Born on the farm now owned by J. W. Noble.

Others in the family include Jane (Mrs. George Fox) of Gosfield South, deceased; Mrs. Margaret Bray of Amherstburg, Julia (Mrs. Wheeler Mickle) of Alberta, Amanda (Mrs. Adam Fox), deceased, Louisa (Mrs. James H Brown) of Harrow, Alfred of Windsor, and one brother who died in infancy.

The deceased spent his whole life in Colchester South; married Laura Bray, daughter of the late Thomas Bray, who survives her husband.

She bore him a son (Ernest, a well-known farmer here) and Maggie (Mrs. John C. Brush) of Colchester South. 34 years ago he purchased his farm from Edward Shaw.

September 10

A bee took place on Jacob McLean's place. Some 14 of his neighbours put up the rafters of the big barn which was brought from Hiram Walker's and brought down here. A new pine siding is being used.

September 17

The price of milk at Essex has been raised as follows: 14 pint tickets are \$1; single quarts are 15 cents; single pints are 8 cents for pasteurized milk.

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.

In our last issue, we had looked at Oak Island, and its legendary buried treasure. Long assumed to be pirate treasure, the fabled riches may have another, and possibly more likely, source.

We are familiar with tales of the Crusades, during the 1200's, when soldiers and armoured knights of Christendom went to the Holy Land of the Middle East, determined to drive the occupying Muslim armies out of Jerusalem and other Christian holy places.

For many, the stories of Robin Hood and Richard the Lion-Hearted were our introduction to these events, as he indeed led soldiers... "onward Christian soldiers, marching unto war" into these battles.

The Knights Templar was a large, powerful organization of great influence and wealth throughout Europe, seen as the defenders of the Faith and the army of Pope Boniface VIII. Not all of them were knights, but the term has come to signify all the various members of the group. And then in 1303, Pope Boniface died.

King Philip IV of France had long-eyed the Knights Templar, desiring their wealth and land holdings. For nearly two hundred years the Templars amassed a fortune in lands, castles, gold, silver, jewels and precious objects. On Friday the 13th, October 1307, and with the permission of the Pope, Phillip IV arrested the

key leaders of the Order based in France. He had them tortured into confessions of heresy and devil worship. He seized their lands and raided the treasury but found it much emptier than expected.



Across the rest of Europe the remaining Knights seem to have moved swiftly to hide their portable treasure. The vast treasure of the Knights Templar had largely disappeared and has never been found. An equally intriguing mystery is what happened to the majority of Knights who were never arrested.

At least several thousand men, as well as a flotilla of ships simply vanished. In particular, 18 ships that had been berthed at La Rochelle, France on the night before the mass arrests and persecution, set sail under cover of darkness and simply vanished from history.

Legend says they held unimaginable treasures, Holy relics and priceless objects of many kinds.

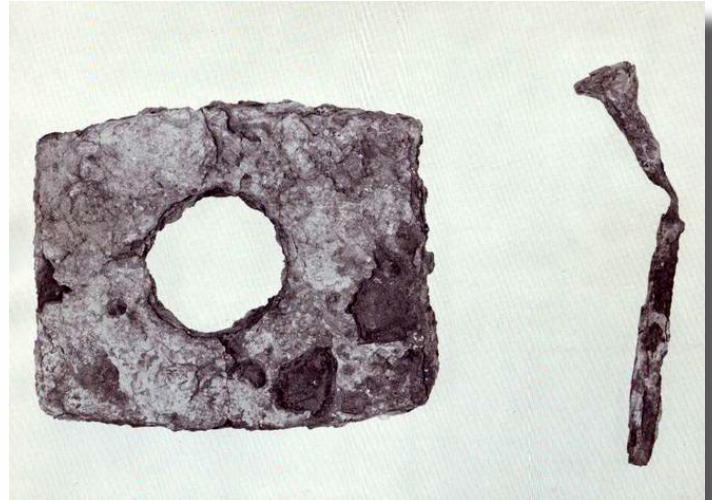
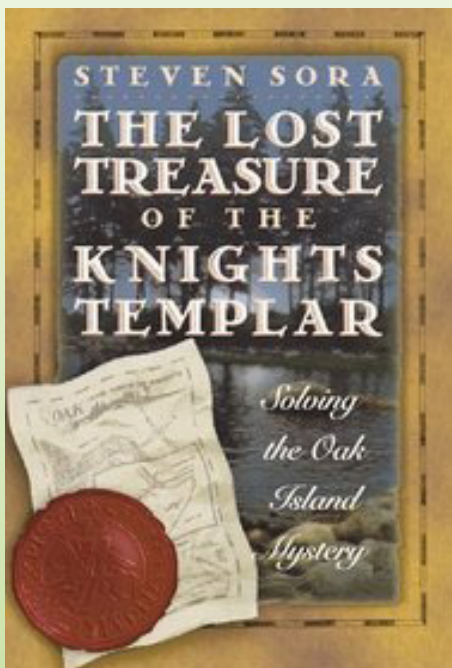
Treasure hunters have heard these stories for centuries, and recently several discoveries on Oak Island itself have Templar connections... from rock carvings forming a possible map, to tools and coded messages.

Could this missing fleet have reached Oak Island and dismantled the ships for building materials to use in tunnelling and burying this fabled treasure trove?

The scope of this task seems to indicate a huge work force, and they certainly had that. Traces of Knights Templar inscriptions in various churches around Europe give examples of their various crosses & secret symbols, some of which have indeed shown up on Oak Island.

Possible items buried there include (according to whose theories you choose to believe) the Ark of the Covenant, the original manuscripts credited to William Shakespeare but thought by some to have been written by Francis Bacon, and a host of items brought from Jerusalem as the Knights left there as a fighting force.

It is an intriguing possibility & we may have answers in the next few years as the massive exploration on Oak Island, continues.



The Knights Templar symbols (a pyramid with an “all-seeing eye” on top, and a distinctive cross shape, among others) and likely some of their rituals have continued on through the Freemasons (or Masons), and various references to important historical figures, link them to the Masons.



I always understood the organization to be a ‘male only’ group, but about 2 years ago, my wife got a letter addressed to her, containing an application form for the Knights Templar.

I have been told there is a local branch of the group. **It is a curious world we live in!**

History As It Used to Was...

- by Ted Steele, HEIRS Director

Canada's Problem

Canadians pride themselves on being understanding and tolerant, accepting everyone as a part of our society. Yet one group has been left out for many years, and ironically, that group is the Indigenous people, the true original Canadians.

Most of us know about the early interaction between the Indians (as I will refer to them here) and the French initially, followed by the British. However, most of us know very little of these first inhabitants after the death of Tecumseh in 1813.

In reality, battles during the War of 1812 were fought in many parts of Ontario and several native forces were involved, each with leaders of vital importance in resisting American invasion. Several British commanders of the time period stated that these battles would not have been won without the support of the thousands of Métis and native warriors who joined the British to defend the homeland.

Chief Pitikwahonapiwiyn, commonly referred to as Poundmaker was a Cree chief who lived on a reserve some 200 miles northwest of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. He helped negotiate treaties between his people and the Canadian government. As the Northwest Rebellion broke out during the 1880s, the native people were starving.

Poundmaker led a group to the police camp to demand the rations promised in their treaty, but no food was provided. Angry Cree warriors ransacked a nearby village, taking what they could find. Due to the violent outbreak most



townspeople took immediate refuge in the RCMP barracks. A military force was sent to deal with this episode, that although was attributed to Poundmaker, in fact he tried to discourage the ransacking.

With over 300 men, 2 cannons and a Gatling machine gun, Lt.-Colonel Otter attacked the reserve. But the Cree & Assiniboine warriors met them head on and routed them.

During the soldiers' desperate retreat, Poundmaker made sure to restrain his warriors who wanted to chase the retreating men. Poundmaker likely thwarted a certain slaughter, but was summarily arrested and charged with treason.

He was given a 3-year sentence in prison, but was released after 1 year. Broken in spirit and health, he died within months.

These native heroes did not disappear, but ceased to be mentioned in most history books. Even so, their contribution to our evolving history has continued to be one of significance. 'Status Indians' were wards of the government with no responsibilities or rights of citizenship.

This also meant that they were not expected to take up arms in time of war. Even so, in 1914, as war against Germany was declared, hundreds of natives did enlist. By 1918, thousands had offered to serve. From the Six Nations Reserve near Brantford alone, several hundred young men volunteered.

On May 23, 2019, after lobbying by native leaders for decades, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau officially exonerated Poundmaker.

"We recognize that during his lifetime Chief Poundmaker was not treated justly nor showed the respect he deserved as a leader of his people. If we are to move forward together on the path of reconciliation, the Government of Canada must acknowledge the wrongs of the past. It is my sincere hope that—by coming together today and taking this important step together as equal partners—we can continue the important work of reconciling the past and renewing our relationship." - The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

"We honour our legendary leader Poundmaker today, and all affiliated leaders and warriors, for taking a brave stance defending themselves on May 2, 1885, and for holding back and not counter-attacking the retreating Colonel Otter and his men. He saved a lot of lives, and was living up to his promise not to take up arms

against the Queen as promised under Treaty Number Six. Poundmaker was a diplomat, a peace maker, and was practicing reconciliation already in the 19th century. The truth is now known, and he will be remembered in history as a national hero. - Chief Duane Antoine, Poundmaker Cree Nation



Photo: Bert Crowfoot, windspeaker news

"I am here today, on behalf of the government of Canada, to confirm without reservation that Chief Poundmaker is fully exonerated of any crime or wrongdoing."

- Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau

Canadian history has finally restored Chief Poundmaker to his proper place as a great Canadian hero.

HEIRS RESOURCE CENTRE

***Open September - June** (December excepted)

Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM - 3PM

Call to confirm Wednesday or other appointments.

*** OFFICE IS CURRENTLY CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19**

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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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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