

Vol. 5 – May 2018

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...

"Who was that masked man?"

Newsletter News!

Welcome to the May newsletter.

Having recently reorganized family pictures, newspaper accounts, clippings & of course spent considerable time online digging into potential books that might illuminate more family facts, it dawned on me that a recent Broadway musical summed up, for me, what genealogy is all about.

In the hit show *Hamilton*, whose lyrics “who lives...who dies... who tells your story” in one of their iconic songs, nudges us all to continue to tell “our” story... as maybe no one else might do it. So, continue to share your stories with younger family members, & write down as much as you, can, when you can. Be sure these storylines are not lost to history.

Why not come out to this month’s special meeting and hear other intriguing tales, perhaps to then stimulate you to “tell your story...” **See you there?**

Next Meeting

When: Thursday, May 24, 1:30 PM

Where: Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Meeting Room

Our upcoming May 24th meeting will be all about “Alternative Truths”.

These are the stories that show just how wrong our popular conceptions are, as we readily accept misinformation, rumours and propaganda as the truth.

We’ll help you get all the facts straight, have some laughs and make you wonder how much of history is actually accurate, and how much may be totally incorrect for various reasons.

The month of May is also our annual election of Directors, and time to “schmooze” with other HEIRS members.

As always, the public is welcome to join us.

(Please also join us for a special meeting next month. Info on this unique date for one of our meetings is highlighted in the adjacent column.)

SPECIAL NOTICE

For the 1st time, HEIRS will also be hosting a JUNE meeting!

HEIRS is teaming up with the Essex County Branch of the Ontario Genealogy Society for a special meeting on June 14th at 1:30PM, in the Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Meeting Room..

Milo Johnson will provide us a brief presentation about his latest book **New Canaan: Freedom-Land, the Blacks of Colchester Township**”.

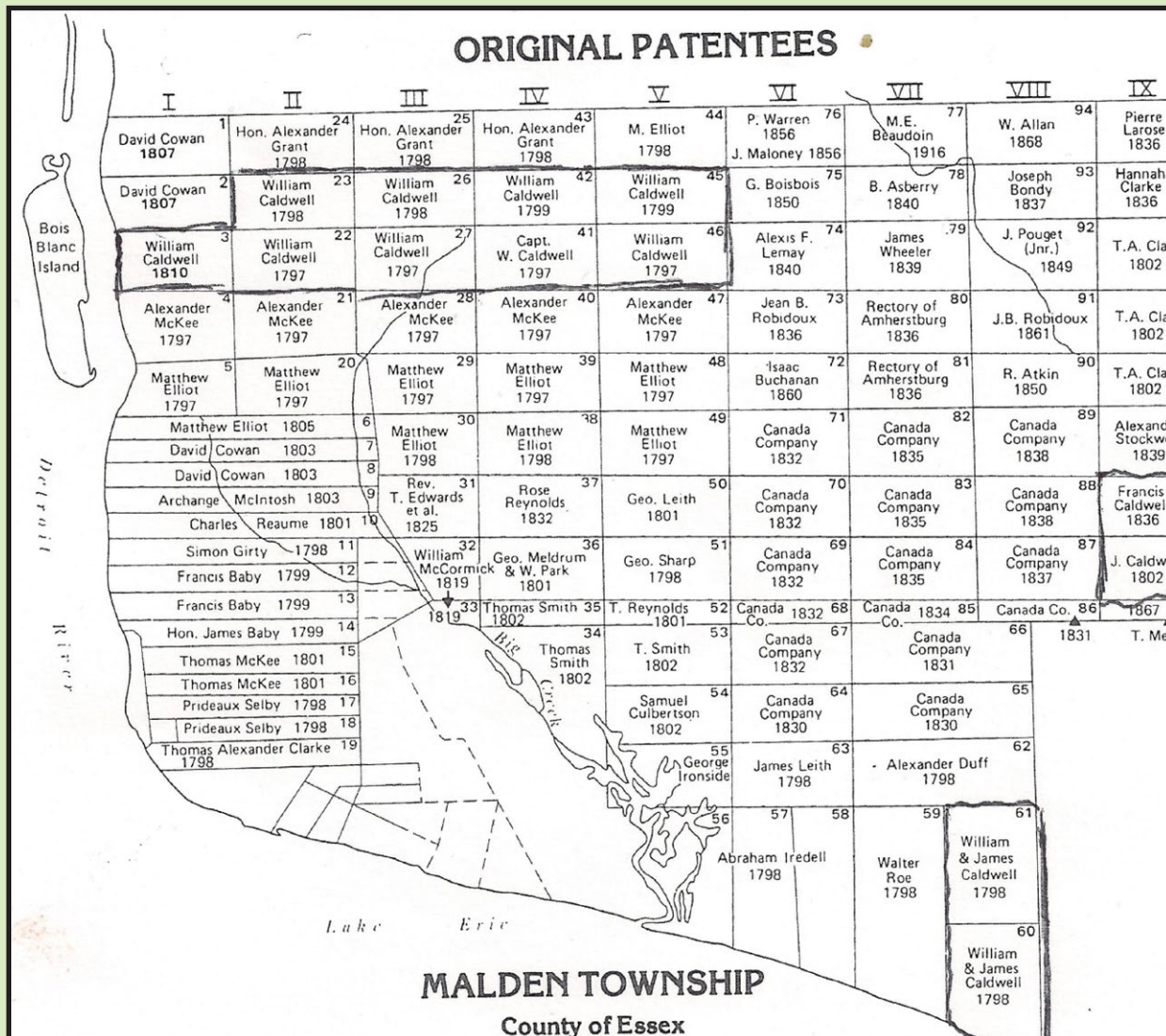
Both OGS & HEIRS will showcase their various services & activities offered to the public. It’s a great chance to learn about the resources available & discover the fascinating events & meetings being planned.

Join us for this special meeting... enjoy the nibbles, the good social time & an enjoyable, educational event.

On April 26th, Marvin Recker spoke to HEIRS about his ancestor, William Caldwell.

Caldwell lived a tumultuous life as an active participant at some of the most vicious battles of the American Revolution & the War of 1812, when American forces occupied the Western Region surrounding Amherstburg,

Displaying weapons of the period, Marvin pointed out each of their benefits & gave a frank discussion of a man, although a very effective warrior, was not the nicest person to deal with. We learned of local families related to the Caldwells, now not a common name in Essex County. Marvin had us chuckling aloud with unexpectedly humorous remarks, making this talk informative, and entertaining – an enjoyable meeting!



4 Upcoming Events

May 12

The Bicentennial Branch of the United Empire Loyalists meets at the Church of the Epiphany, Main Street in Kingsville at 1 PM for their annual general meeting. For information, contact them @ www.uelac.org/Bicentennial-UEL.

June 9

Chris Carter will be appearing at the Canadian Transportation Museum and Heritage Village with his topic to be "**Hidden Gems in Essex County**". He will present at 11:30 AM, with a repeat presentation at 1 PM. A small charge will apply.

Anyone wishing more information, or any dealers wishing to display and sell appropriate items which may enhance the theme, can contact Chris at essexhistory002@gmail.com.

Chris is also looking for stories about Essex County's haunted past. If you know of any such stories that he might be able to include in his coming book, "**True Tales -Strange and Scary Stories of Essex County**", he would love to hear from you.



THE ARTISTS OF COLOUR
2018 ART EXHIBITION
PRESENT

MOSAIC

May 4, 2018 - May 13, 2018
"Cultural Mosaic is the mix of bits and pieces of ethnic groups' languages and culture which co-exist within society. This show represents the diverse assemblage of individual artists who have combined their collective talents to tell the world that creativity transcends individual differences."

**OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION MAY 4TH
7 PM - 10 PM
\$5 COVER CHARGE**

May 5th - 13th Show Hours 10 am - 5 pm
No admission Fee but donations are welcomed

Mackenzie Hall and Cultural Centre
and The Common Ground Gallery,
3277 Sandwich Street, Windsor, Ontario
(519) 255-7600

KUDOS and SUGGESTIONS

One of our HEIRS members writes to ask when we are having the "scuba diver guy" back. Obviously quite an impression was made, and we are encouraged even more to have Cris Kohl and wife Diane Forsberg back when they can fit us into their busy schedule. We appreciate input from members about what topics to work on and which ones have greatest appeal to our members.

Another member who lives at a distance wrote to say... "I love your meaty newsletters. I wish I lived closer so that I could attend the meetings." She then listed local families of interest in her research and indicated that she and some friends expect to join us at HEIRS during the summer to continue their research and uncover more of their roots. This lets us know we are on the right track with what we do, and are achieving our goal to educate and entertain each month.

Another member writes... "I truly enjoy your newsletter, the book reviews & the section from the Amherstburg Echo. Thank you & good job!" HEIRS appreciates the kind words!

Special Recognition

On Sunday, April 8, the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration held a special ceremony at the Ciociaro Club in Windsor, to honour those who have volunteered their time and energy to make their communities a better place to live.

HEIRS volunteers Pauline Baldwin, John and Ann Brush, Kathy Langlois, Chris Carter and Ted Steele were each presented with a lapel pin and a certificate denoting their years of service and dedication to the entire Essex County area.

HEIRS is very fortunate to have such loyal long term supporters. Congrats.



Volunteer Award Recipients

Left to right: Kathy Langlois, John and Ann Brush, Chris Carter, & Pauline Baldwin. **Not pictured:** Ted Steele

Are you up-to-date?

HEIRS Memberships were due April 30th, 2018

(See page 10 for payment details.)

Thank you.

VHS to DVD: Protecting your memories

HEIRS reminds its members that we can offer a service that is of great importance to anyone who may have valued VHS video cassettes that contain family events like weddings or reunions, or a record of some historic event.

These cassettes can easily be damaged- a nearby magnet can erase some or all of a tape, which is after all, a magnetic recording. Time dries out the tape or glue holding the film on its reels, and this will damage or destroy the tension on the tape needed for playback.

The contents of the tape can be transferred to a DVD disk which is NOT a magnetic copy; it is smaller and more durable, and can be played in any computer with a DVD player, or by a DVD player attached to your television. Once the disk is made, it can easily be duplicated for family and friends as well.

Recently the local group "Friends of Cedar Creek" asked us to transfer 8 hours of video from 4 video cassette tapes to disk, which we were happy to do. This 8 hours was the record of the rescue and restoration of the historic Kingsville train station some years back, and it is now in DVD format. Our charge is minimal, but Staples currently charges \$29.95 per video cassette being copied, and HEIRS did all 4 disks for less than that.

Is it time that you consider transferring your precious memories?

May 14th

Special Info Day

For any of our members interested in learning more about DNA and its applications to genealogy research, I recommend a meeting being offered by the Essex County branch of the OGS (Ontario Genealogy Society) on Thursday, May 14.

At least 2 of the HEIRS directors are planning to attend. Learn about the different types of DNA testing, the testing companies and how to use the results. I do know that Ancestry, one of the companies doing this type of test, is offering special prices approximately every second month, with the latest offer to begin April 24, I am told.

This meeting will be conducted by Angela Churchill, beginning at 7 PM, in the lower level meeting room of the Windsor Public Library at 850 Ouellette Ave, with free parking behind the library on Dufferin Street after 6 PM.

The Amherstburg Echo.

THE ORIGINAL PAPER OF THE DISTRICT

Tue. Dec. 12

AMHERSTBURG, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1904.

Week No. 2476

100 ACRES FOR SALE.

In full possession, Amherst Township, good water, well-shaded, 20 acres of land, with well buildings. For further particulars see page 10.

FALLS BROS., Agts.
Amherstburg.

LIME FOR SALE
IN
CARLOAD LOTS.

THE SOVEREIGN BANK OF CANADA.

HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO, ONT.

SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT.

BARROW BRANCH, AMHERSTBURG BRANCH.
C. A. WILKINSON, M. J. LAKE
Managers.

PROVED BY SUBSCRIPTION.

INCORPORATED IN CANADA.

BURK BROS.



May 3

A demonstration by the Essex Tractor Co., on the farm of John Birch. Farmers are looking at tractors seriously.

May 10

J R Pollard and Fred White expect to go to Ottawa to present a monster petition from Colchester South, asking that farmers' sons be exempted from the provisions of the Conscription Act, owing to their being engaged in producing foodstuffs so much required in winning the war. 450 names on the petition.

May 17

Chester Knapp died. Eldest son of Peter Knapp and ? Beeman. His brother is John B. Knapp of the Colchester Light. Chester married Hester Young, sister of Asa Young of Malden.

May 24

Ferriss Grocery now has a Ford delivery car which reaches destinations quickly.

Food hoarding made a crime; people had to return bags of flour & sugar which were over

the limit permitted. Not sure how groceries are to finance the materials returned. One man convicted of hoarding in Niagara Falls given a 2.5 year jail sentence.

May 31

A. E. Bailey's son Roy has returned to the firing line after being confined to hospital in France for some time. Roy not only won the M.C., but had been promoted from Lieutenant to Captain for conspicuous & cool-headed bravery. He led a company in an exploit to get back from which seemed a miracle. One of his men was wounded & his clothing in which he carried a bomb, set afire, in putting out the fire & rescuing the soldier from certain death, Captain Roy had his hand severely burned & exposed himself to the hazard of death.

Oxley has the climate, the attractiveness, but not the accommodation in the way of large rooming houses. There are few people of any importance in the business world in Detroit & other neighbouring cities who have not spent part of their summers at Oxley, both for the splendid mail service & excellent bathing beach.

The Treasures of HEIRS ...

- by Ted Steele, HEIRS Director



An old Windsor Star article from November 1937 provided the impetus for the story of one early settler in the Colchester region. The original article focused on Elizabeth Turner & her son, William of Pelee Island notariety, the wife & son of UEL, Alexander McCormick.

This story tells of their individual lives, of the chance meeting in the wilds of the new frontier, and how their union influenced the Colchester region for years to come. It's an extraordinary look into common events of the era, set within the historical backdrop of two young & emerging countries. The union of these two indomitable spirits led the McCormicks to Colchester & Pelee Island, and is provided in our 3-part story, beginning with Alexander.

Alexander McCormick was born in County Down, Ireland in 1728. Alexander may have been influenced to emigrate to 'America' along with his older brother Robert, when hearing the experiences & adventures brought home by another brother John, a Royal Navy surgeon in the 1750's.

In the British Archives, he was noted to have been assigned to the ships Northumberland & Nottingham, part of the flotilla off Nova Scotia during the siege of Louisburg. A 1993 published book "Surgeons, Smallpox and the Poor, A History of Medicine and Social Conditions in Nova Scotia, 1749-1799" by Allan Everett Marble mentions John as serving in the hospital itself, in Halifax.

In any case, the two brothers arrived in America around 1761, about 15 years following the death of their father, David. Robert headed to

the Carolinas & unfortunately his story was lost to history. Alexander found work in in the Philadelphia region for a short time, but like many immigrants, with adventure and the mind to improve their lives, made his way to the 'Western Territory' an area in the present day being Ohio region.

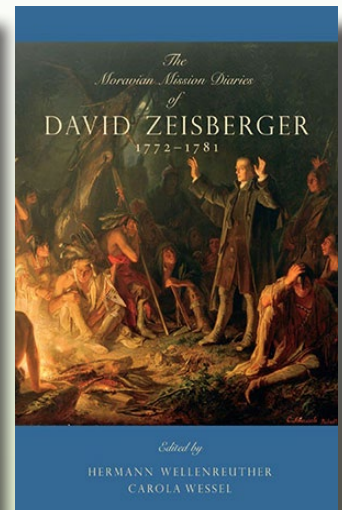
Moravian missionary David Zeisberger who worked among the Iroquois & Delaware for 63 years, stated in his diaries that Alexander was captured by the Delaware 5 years after coming to America. His entries were compiled in "The Moravian Mission Diaries of David Zeisberger, 1772-1781" by H. Wellenruether & C. Wessel.

SURGEONS SMALLPOX and the POOR

*A History of Medicine and Social
Conditions in Nova Scotia, 1749-1799*



Allan Everett Marble



Alexander is noted many times throughout these diaries as a trader of goods, coming & going to the mission, selling corn to them during bitter winters, as well as working between the two groups to obtain not only goods but favourable resolution to issues.

His trading experience not only provided Alexander sustenance, but in all likelihood, saved his life.

With continued expansion into traditionally held native land, settlers often with young families in tow, were frequently captured. Many were killed outright, some ransomed for goods, & some were acclimated into the Indian lifestyle (if able to work or otherwise offer value to the band). Experienced traders were valued negotiators in the exchange of furs and other native goods... with the French & British, as well as with the Americans later on.



The McCormick story occurs in the same era as the famous Daniel Boone (1734-1820), followed by Davey Crockett (1786-1836) & other frontiersmen, as the push westward accelerated.

Left: Davy Crockett
by John Gadsby Chapman

Alexander remarkably, not only survived being captured in 1766, he quickly became known as a “brother” and was called “Big Injun” among the Delaware & Shawnee.

He quickly embraced his captors' lifestyle. He adopted the native dress, traveled with the tribe & was trusted with their most valuable asset... **fur pelts to trade with the ‘white man’.**

Alexander was so entrenched in the native culture that the Shawnee Chief offered his sister for his wife. Alexander completed rituals that allowed him to wed. Zeisberger referenced McCormick's native wife in his diaries, giving her the Biblical name Martha, just prior to her death. She passed away in the Moravian village in 1778, leaving a young son David. Not much is known about David after 1783.

But a son, born in the Ohio region to his 2nd wife, would later play a prominent role in Upper Canada's early years.

Alexander, now completely identified with the native life, appeared to hold some prominence & authority within the activities of the Shawnees (after all, he was the son-in-law of the Chief).

In “Blazes, Posts & Stones” by James L. Williams, it states that at the foot of the Maumee River rapids “Alexander McCormick's trading post was situated along the north bank of the river. Next to McCormick's was the trading post of Gabriel Godfroy”. One of several French & British ‘trading houses’ built near modern day Toledo, Ohio, west of the British Fort Pitt.

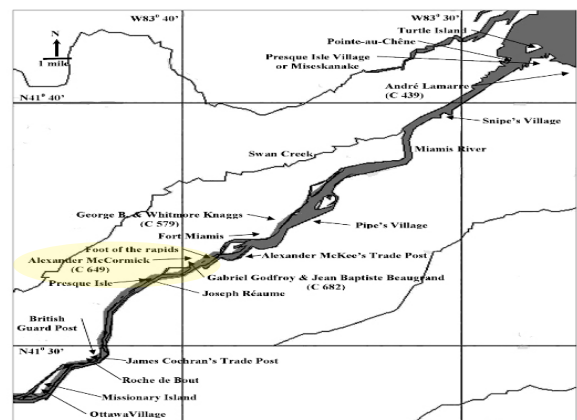


Figure 9. English and French-Speaking Traders on the Maumee River, 1780-1794

In 1782, a Wyandotte band living near today's Sandusky, Ohio traveled to trade with the Shawnees along the Maumee River. This is when Alexander discovered a young white woman among them....captured and adopted into their tribe... just as he had been, many years earlier.

Little did he know that he was looking at the future... “Mother of Pelee Island”.

Part two: Elizabeth Turner's story of her capture, her life among the natives, the daring escape plan, and becoming the McCormick matriarch in Upper Canada... **in the HEIRS June newsletter.**

HEIRS Resource Centre

Open Sept. - June (Dec. excepted)

Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM - 3PM

Wednesday & other appts: Call to confirm.

Newsletter

Published 9 times per year, in conjunction with General Meetings held on the 4th Thursday of the month, from 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

\$25 CDN / U.S.

per person or couple covers

May 1st (2018) to April 30th, 2019

Send cheque to:

HEIRS PO Box 53, Harrow ON Canada N0R 1G0

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

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

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.

Board of Directors

President

Richard Herniman

herniman5@sympatico.ca

Vice-President

Chris Carter

cdcarter002@gmail.com

Treasurer

John Brush

mb1@xplornet.com

Secretary

Kathy Langlois

kathyl@msni.net

Directors

Pauline Baldwin

Brian Leslie

Esther Meerschaut

Roger Sinasac

Ted Steele

Committee Chairpersons

Resource Centre

Pauline Baldwin

baldwin1@xplornet.com

Kathy Langlois

kathyl@msni.net

Membership

Richard Herniman

herniman5@sympatico.ca

Hospitality

Ann Brush

jmb1@xplornet.com

Program / Publicity

Chris Carter

cdcarter002@gmail.com

Ted Steele

historynut@outlook.ca

Newsletter

Ted Steele

historynut@outlook.ca

519 733-3456

