



# HEIRS

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society

n e w s l e t t e r



RMcE  
2023

*Lest we forget...*



## Catching Up!

- by Lorrie Stephenson, President, HEIRS

### New at the Resource Centre

#### Digitized Newspapers!

The days of squinting at the microfilm reader and fiddling with the settings are done. Reels of the Harrow News, Amherstburg Echo, and Essex Free Press are digitized and available for browsing and searching at the HEIRS Resource Centre.

#### Library Catalogue

Don't forget our new library catalogue! Over 1,000 library items in our collection have been catalogued and can now be located easily using this digital catalogue in the HEIRS Resource Centre.

#### Too early?

With Christmas coming sooner than you think, complete your shopping list with local history books from HEIRS. Visit [heirs.ca/shop](https://heirs.ca/shop) or stop into the Resource Centre during open hours. We're now open 3 days & one evening a week for researchers. See our back cover for open hours.

## November 23rd Meeting: 1:30 PM

(Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Meeting Room)

Mary Anne Adam, director of the Belle Vue Conservancy will share information on her historical novel, 'The Medicine Bag'.



### October Meeting Recap

October was Women's History Month in Canada. On October 18th, 1929 women were legally declared to be 'persons' and were able to hold a senate seat.

Town of Essex Mayor, Sherry Bondy (pictured), shared inspiring reflections on overcoming struggles to fulfill the traditional female role of caretaker, while simultaneously working to have a positive impact on community.

### In this Issue

#### How often do we think about war in our daily lives?

Recently, it's more often as news from overseas pummels us. Wars affect everyone, whether directly through human connection, or indirectly through politics and economy. And most definitely, it affects our freedom.

In this newsletter we share stories from the two World Wars. Although fought long ago, we remember and honour the sacrifices. It is our duty to do so, and to teach generations to come about those who fought for our freedom.

In this vein, we've also provided a brief history of the Legion.

This historic mansion plays a key role in her book, and you can see the Belle Vue restoration rescue project today.

See the interior view of Belle Vue by clicking the link below.

<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=b2dK9F5uTJN>

The Public is Welcome to Attend Our Meetings



## Looking for Mr. Krieghoff...

- by Laurie Brett / Lorrie Stephenson

**HEIRS member Laurie Brett is asking area residents to comb through their attics and closets for old family photographs bearing the mark of Cornelius R. Krieghoff, a Toronto photographer who opened a studio in Essex in the spring of 1894.**

### How do you know if you have a Krieghoff photograph?

“The name ‘Krieghoff’ was always embossed on the cardboard matt of each photo,” says Brett. “The mark took different forms over the years – sometimes embossed, sometimes carved into the matt – but always prominent.”



### Brett has a few Krieghoffs of her own.

“I have a Krieghoff photograph of my great-grandfather, John Ernest Bauer, as a child,” says Brett. “He was born and raised on the third concession of Maidstone Township, which shows that people living outside Essex also came to town to visit Krieghoff’s studio.”

Important to local history is Brett’s photograph of another great-grandfather, Richard Ruddy Brett, who purchased the Essex Free Press in 1896 in partnership with William H. Auld. Krieghoff helped to memorialize the purchase by photographing the men seated at a wooden table, casually posed in tilted hats.



**Amherstburg Echo staffers R.R. Brett and W.H. Auld marked their purchase of the Essex Free Press by visiting Cornelius R. Krieghoff’s studio in June 1896.**

The name Krieghoff may be familiar to some. The photographer was the nephew of the famous Quebec painter Cornelius D. Krieghoff. Known for his paintings of 19th century life along the St. Lawrence River, Krieghoff was also an accomplished musician and student of natural history.

**To share your Krieghoff photos, please contact Laurie Brett by email, [lbrett.risingvillage@gmail.com](mailto:lbrett.risingvillage@gmail.com) or by phone at 519-562-7709 or through the Rising Village page on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/therisingvillage>**



## The Royal Canadian Legion

- by Lorrie Stephenson

**What do you do with veterans when they return from war? This was a serious question for Canadians after WWI, when veterans returned home from overseas. Often with no job waiting and their social lives uncertain, our veterans needed help reintegrating into Canadian life once again.**

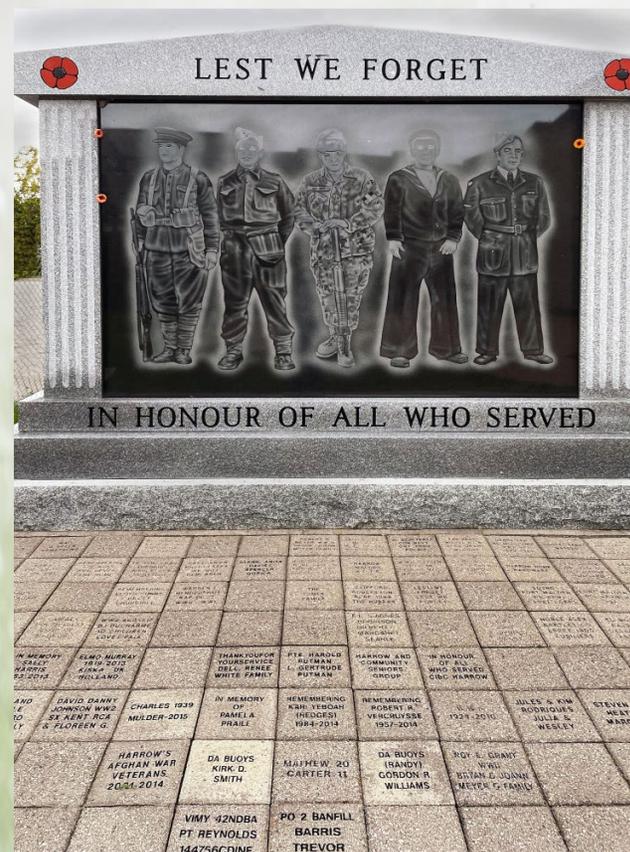
Several veteran groups popped up around the country after WWI. In November 1925, 'The Canadian Legion of the British Service League' was established in Winnipeg. In 1960, Queen Elizabeth II honoured this group by consenting to the use of the prefix 'Royal' in their name: The Royal Canadian Legion.

Locally, Legion members from Harrow and surrounding area established the Prince Edward Branch in December of 1927. Monthly meetings were held at headquarters in the Queen's Hotel and hosted by Major Garnet, proprietor.

During WWII, local veterans began congregating at the former Webster's store, Buchanan's Hardware, Williams' Harness Shop and the 'Soup', Langlois' Poolroom. Membership expanded as our veterans returned home. On December 3rd, 1948 a charter was issued by the Royal Canadian Legion, and the Colchester Branch was named 338. A Legion Memorial Hall was needed, and Bill Cleghorn, a WWI vet designed the building.

Members worked hard to fundraise towards the building costs. On November 11th, 1948 the building was ready for dedication and Mayor Howard Heaton was the first Honorary Member, for his support and dedication to the project. Two bronze plaques, one on each side of the entry door, listed those who had given their lives during the two World Wars.

Since that day, rain or shine, on every November 11th, a parade marches through town and a religious service is held. Wreaths are laid and a meal is shared at the Legion Hall. Many Canadians don't realize the scope of support that the Legion has in the community. The Legion supports our veterans of course, but also youth activities, fundraising, supporting others in need, and serving as a gathering place in Harrow and the region.



On June 6th, 2015 the dedication of the newly erected cenotaph occurred as well as naming of 'Harrow Veterans Memorial Park'.



John Woodbridge

**See you at the cenotaph on November 11th.**

**Just follow the sound of John Woodbridge's bagpipes to 28 King St. West. Service begins at 1:45 PM.**



## A Soldier's Story

- by Bonnie Storey, Treasurer, HEIRS

**As always in the fall, some of us are reminded of the war vets we lost, and those who lived, who were marked for life by what they saw, heard, smelled and tasted. This story is about one of those Canadian soldiers.**

*He was born in Windsor to a Scottish immigrant family. They were well-established and comfortable contributors to their community. He was loyal, polite, ambitious and hard working. He became fluent in French as he spent summers working on a Quebec farm.*

*When he finished high school he went to work at the family business, and waited to be old enough to join the military. His family were loyal citizens of the King, who all previously had military experiences. It never occurred to any of them not to serve when war was declared.*

*The month that he turned 18, he was on a ship headed for England, as a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He then went to France, on September 23, 1917, to Vimy, near Arras, where he remained as a gunner, runner, and signaller, until, as a member of the occupation, he crossed the German border.*

*This young soldier came home to Canada in 1919, with chronically infected feet from walking in wet trenches and with no opportunity to shower or change his clothes for weeks on end. He came home with clear memories of all that he had seen and done, the horrors that none of them had been prepared for, and the inability to speak about any of it. However, it was over, so his natural optimism led him forward.*

*He returned to school, at McGill University, and left as a Chartered Accountant in 1924. He was ready for the next*

*adventure, a trip to Brazil with a cousin. Their plan was to bring electric power to South America. Then reality struck. In those days, young men did what was expected of them. This soldier was required to return home to run the family business, as his father had been disabled by a stroke. He did what was expected.*

*He was an officer in the Essex Scottish Regiment until 1936, when he was directed, along with another officer, to form a new regiment, the Essex Regiment (Tank). Everyone understood that war was coming again.*

*One evening in 1939 he told his wife that he had to go, at midnight, that night. He went to England and on to Italy, where he served until 1941. After that he trained others and was involved in some things that were never discussed or explained. In 1944 he was discharged. Both his mother and his youngest brother had died within the past year, and his own health was failing.*

*Responsible oldest sons being who they are, he came back to manage his business and involve himself in municipal government. Then followed several happy years for the family, and even included another baby.*

*His health was not good – terrible headaches, insomnia, high blood pressure, and those infected feet. He kept busy all the time, running the business, gardening, remodeling the family home, and enjoying his family. He was appointed Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of the Essex Regiment (Tank), the predecessor of the 22 Recce Regiment.*

*It is a funny thing, that PTSD. There is no guarantee that it will appear right after the exposure to stress. For this soldier, it became unmanageable 8 years after the end of the war, 36 years after his first exposure.*

*He took his own life. An ethical, honourable man who lived a responsible life. He kept his nightmares and horrors to himself, until he could no longer tolerate them.*



## Our Local Boys and the Dieppe Raid - by Lorrie Stephenson

Research conducted using HEIRS records, newspapers.com & ancestry.ca websites

**On August 19, 1942, the Essex Scottish Regiment took part in Operation Jubilee, on the banks of Dieppe France, part of the 2nd Canadian infantry division.**

The regiment was appointed to the main force & at 5:25AM their assault craft landed on the east section, code named 'Red Beach'. But by 5:45AM, with insufficient air and naval support, 30-40% of the Essex Scottish Regiment was either injured, missing, or dead. Only 51 of the 553 Essex Scottish soldiers who left England that day returned home to Essex County, Ontario.

**Back in Essex County, news of this defeat was crushing to the community. These soldiers were the sons, relatives, and friends who would no longer walk among them.**

The young men and women in Essex County were roused by the plight of their friends overseas & enlistment in the Canadian armed services grew.

**Citizens of Essex County & especially the Harrow and Colchester South area were shocked to see local Harrow boys, Keith 'Bud' Heaton (on the left) and James 'Jim' Munger (right) on the Windsor Star's front page being led away as POWs by the Germans.**



It was soon learned that the German prisoners were being held in stalag 8b near Lamsdorf. Over the next 2 years and 8 months, prisoners would be moved to several other camps.



An unexpected positive group photo while at stalag 8b near Lamsdorf. Front row, at the left is Jim Munger, 3rd person same row is Bud Heaton.

Keith 'Bud' Heaton was one of four brothers from his family serving in the war. Brothers, Robert and Walter served overseas, brother Jack was a member of the 18th Royal Canadian Engineers.

During the raid, Bud's hand was injured by shrapnel and the material had to be surgically removed. It was difficult afterwards to join work parties with Jim Munger, because of this injury. His hand never fully recovered.

**Son of Harrow mayor, Howard Heaton, Bud wrote a letter home to his parents on October 11th, 1942, easing their minds.**

*Hello Dad, Mother and family.*

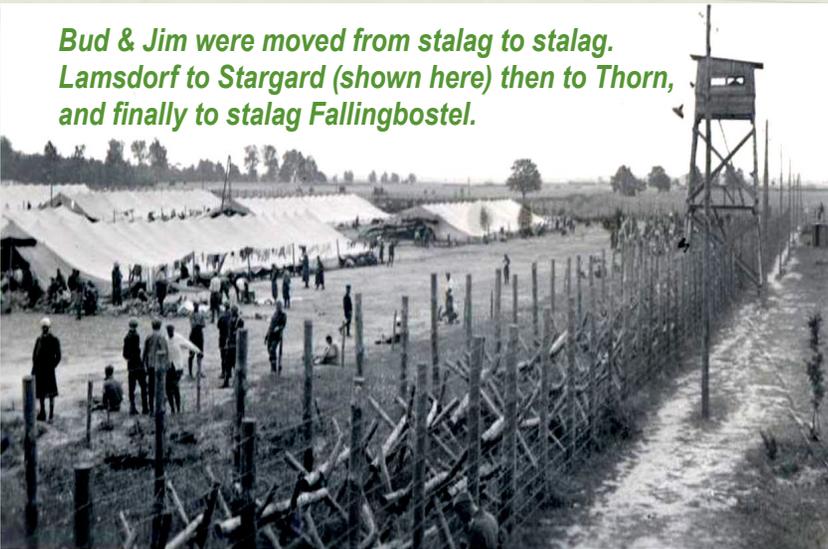
*I am writing to you from someplace in Germany, the exact spot I am afraid may be a military secret. The work so far has been quite easy and it keeps my muscles in shape anyway. So far we have had several little exciting affairs happen here which may again be of military standing.*

*The German people here treat us pretty good and we are getting along with our sentries in the best of ways. We try to carry on conversations with Jerry and our vocabulary is gradually growing. Jim and I just finished making a pudding out of crackers, milk powder, water, prunes, and raisins. It's really good. You should try it. Maybe we can have a stalag dinner when we get home.*

*We all expect our mail to start coming in around Christmas. It sure will be a swell Christmas gift. I have often wondered about Ricky and family and hope to hear from them in a couple of months. Give my love to all the family.*

*Love as always, Bud*

**Bud & Jim were moved from stalag to stalag. Lamsdorf to Stargard (shown here) then to Thorn, and finally to stalag Fallingbostel.**



Records for Heaton & Munger did show that they were part of a work party at a sugar beet factory in Oberlangen in October 1942. Jim continued on in work parties for another year, as a municipal labourer, in forestry and as a cook's helper.

In April 1945, German POW stalags were being captured by advancing allied armies & the search for Essex Scottish POWs continued. On April 7th, the Germans marched 9,000 prisoners, including the Dieppe soldiers, out of Fallingbostel. Just 9 days later, allies captured that stalag and freed remaining prisoners, including one Dieppe Raid soldier who had been left behind.

After the war, in a Windsor Star article, Lloyd Brush from Gesto recalled this 'death march' from the Fallingbostel stalag. Prisoners were starving & weak, as were the horses that had pulled the soon-empty food wagons. These horses were later shot & prisoners were threatened with the same fate, if they didn't keep up the pace.

On May 2, Bud & Jim were liberated, making their way back to England on VE Day to great celebration. Finally, they returned to Canada & home to Harrow. In 1948 Bud married, with Jim serving as his best man. All of Bud's brothers returned home & at the end of the war, Mayor Heaton helped establish the Harrow Legion.

**Although the Dieppe Raid was considered a failure, lessons learned there saved the lives of many soldiers during the D-Day invasion of June 6, 1944.**

**Bud and Jim's story is just one of thousands that demonstrate the sacrifices that were made in the name of freedom. Reflecting on them makes me wonder... how could we ever forget?**



## Letters from the Front... cont'd

By October 1944, his letters resumed, and mention was made of places in Holland and the joyous reception from the Dutch people. He also shared that Nazis were being captured in large numbers as they tried to retreat across the border into Germany.

Naturally, December letters spoke of Christmas, and also how the Dutch celebrated Dec. 6th and their customs. Details about Christmas back in Canada were asked for, showing his longing to be part of family celebrations again.

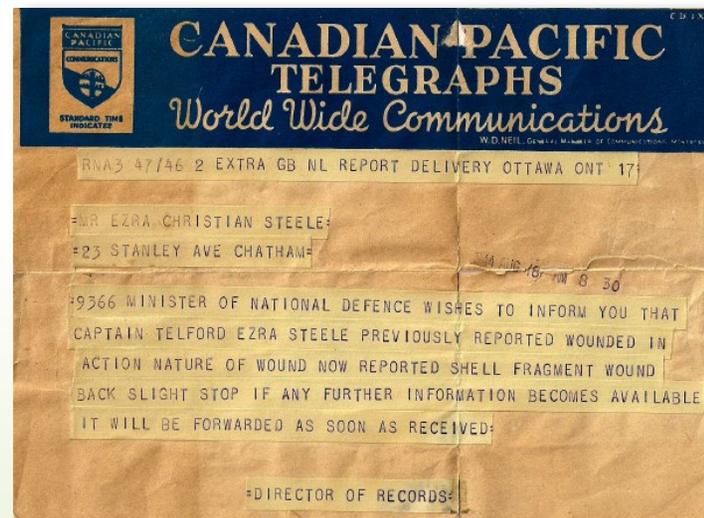


Battle details were obviously sparse, as were comments about how the war itself was going. Letters became more personal, with requests for any news from home & any packages of 'goodies' received were mentioned & appreciated.

The hope to return home soon was a recurring message throughout his letters.

**But Si's letters stopped in early 1945.  
For him, the war was over.**

The Allies crossed into Germany and in this very heavy fighting, my uncle was wounded by German machine gun fire. His 6 months on duty with the regiment morphed into 14 months of hospitalization, 9 in England, and 5 when back in Canada.



**Imagine the anguish when receiving a telegram like this one that Si's parents were sent.**



**Finally released from hospital, after strenuous physical rehabilitation, he picked up the pieces of his life, married his sweetheart, and enjoyed the peace he had helped to win.**

**Left: Si & Norah married in the Fall of 1945.**

If any HEIRS members have similar correspondence, I'd be most interested in reading it. Such stories, written by those who 'lived this history', should be remembered so that war is never repeated.

**Lest we forget.**

# CONTACTS

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## Membership

\$30 CDN/U.S. per person or couple. Memberships run **May 1st - April 30th** annually.

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

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## Payments

**E-transfer payments & donations to HEIRS? Send to: [heirsont@gmail.com](mailto:heirsont@gmail.com)**

**Make cheques payable to HEIRS, 243 McAfee St., PO Box 53, Harrow ON, Canada N0R 1G0**

**NOTE: Members may research for free. Non-members using research library \$10 per visit (+ photocopy fees)**

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## Newsletters & Meetings

HEIRS newsletter is published 9 times/year: colour digital version by email or B&W print version by regular post.

Meetings held on the 4th Thursday of the month, September to June, (July, August & December excepted).

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## Resource Centre Hours

**Tuesdays 10AM-3PM & 6PM-8PM | Thursdays 10AM-3PM | Saturdays 10AM-2PM**

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