



Vol. 1 – January 2019

HEIRS

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society

n e w s l e t t e r



Next meeting...

Canada's Overlooked Heroes

Welcome to the January 2019 newsletter.

I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays, safely, warmly (and without as much of a ‘clatter’ at the start of your long winter’s nap). Myself, I continued discovering my ancestors’ own unique stories. Our early pioneer family members really had it tough back then. For starters, having to clear dense forests to gather logs to build their 1st homes; cutting trees by hand & burning stumps to provide land to grow crops & even building shelters for their livestock if they were lucky enough to own some. Harnessing up the sleigh in the cold of winter to go anywhere, or traveling the early bone-jarring ‘roadways’ of Upper Canada during the summers. We take for granted having drinking water at our fingertips, indoors washrooms, and the ability to simply crank up the thermostat, any time we want.

*Looking back, I clearly realize I have less ‘pioneer’ DNA in my blood, and more ‘pie & beer’ instead. Our ancestors were hardy & became some of the hard-working, 1st citizens of Canada... each one a hero in their own time. And speaking of unsung heroes, that’s the theme of our 1st meeting of the year... **See you there?***

Next Meeting

Thursday, January 24th 1:30PM

Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Meeting Room

HEIRS will meet to hear director Ted Steele discuss *Canada’s Overlooked Heroes*, specifically those from minority groups.

We all tend to focus on mainstream, well-publicized people who have accomplished great things, but others are often overlooked, ignored & quickly forgotten. This meeting is intended as a kick off to Black History Month, (celebrated in February), but it will also highlight amazing women, First Nations people who have stood out, and others from minority groups.

We will hear about the 1st black player in the National Hockey League; a Canadian native who did great things in the sports world, and also other lesser known native leaders from

the War of 1812 period, many of whom you probably have never even heard of, yet in their own way were as important as the famous Tecumseh.

Just like a ‘thank you’ when it is deserved, a simple remembrance and show of appreciation for what these people achieved is a small, simple way to just ‘do the right thing’.



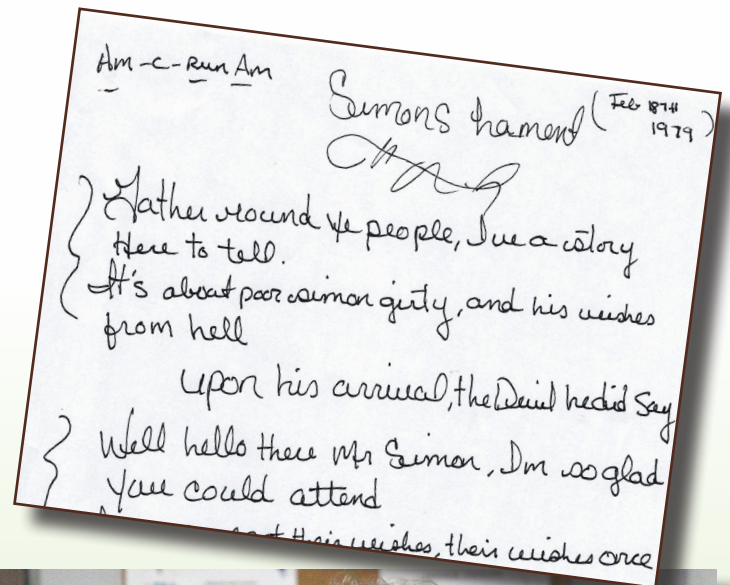
The November meeting of HEIRS featured the 7th great grandson of the legendary Simon Girty.

Charles Wimperis grew up knowing something of his predecessor, not only through the eyes of distorted film portrayals, but also from elder family members who shared the viewpoint that had been passed down over the years. He gradually delved into various sources to explore the legends further, and has become very well informed as to a more accurate understanding of the man and what "made him tick".

Simon has been reviled for supposedly laughing during the torture & burning at the stake of Colonel Crawford of the U.S. forces in 1782. Charles pointed out that only one eye-witness ever gave testimony, and he said clearly that Simon tried to save Crawford but could not. He also pointed out that Crawford was not an army man, but a surveyor involved in Washington's illegal selling of Indian lands to settlers. This, and the fact that Crawford was a close personal friend, may be why Washington placed a \$10,000 bounty on Simon Girty, dead or alive.

We were reminded that Simon valued the Native way of life and saw joining the British side as the only hope for the First Nations to retain any land rights at all.

Charles also played a song on his guitar that he had written some years back called *Simon's Lament*, a very personal connection between the two. As more details emerge on the true story of Simon Girty, Charles indicated that a return visit from him in the future is very likely.



INDIAN LAND FOR SALE

GET A HOME OF YOUR OWN EASY PAYMENTS

PERFECT TITLE POSSESSION WITHIN THIRTY DAYS

FINE LANDS IN THE WEST
IRRIGATED IRRIGABLE GRAZING AGRICULTURAL DRY FARMING

FOR THE YEAR 1910 IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 350,000 ACRES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE

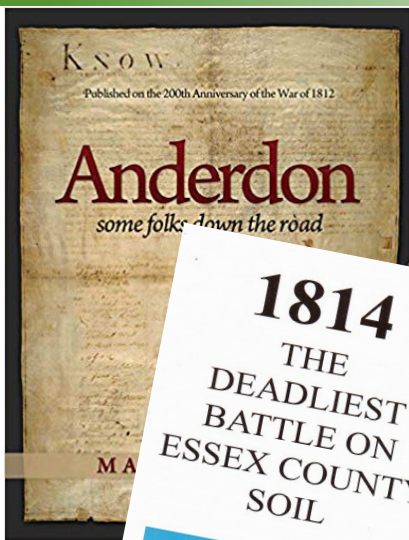
State	Acres	Price per Acre	Total Value
Colorado	5,213,211	\$7.27	\$37,900,000
Idaho	17,013,000	24.85	422,800,000
Kansas	1,684,500	23.45	39,480,000
Montana	11,034,000	9.88	109,000,000
Nebraska	5,641,000	30.55	172,000,000
North Dakota	23,020,700	9.93	229,000,000
Oklahoma	34,664,000	\$19.14	663,000,000
Oregon	1,030,000	15.43	15,900,000
South Dakota	120,445,000	16.53	1,991,000,000
Washington	4,879,000	41.37	202,000,000
Wisconsin	1,092,000	17.00	18,564,000
Wyoming	656,500	20.64	13,550,000

WALTER L. FISHER, ROBERT G. VALENTINE, and others are the agents for the sale of the above lands.

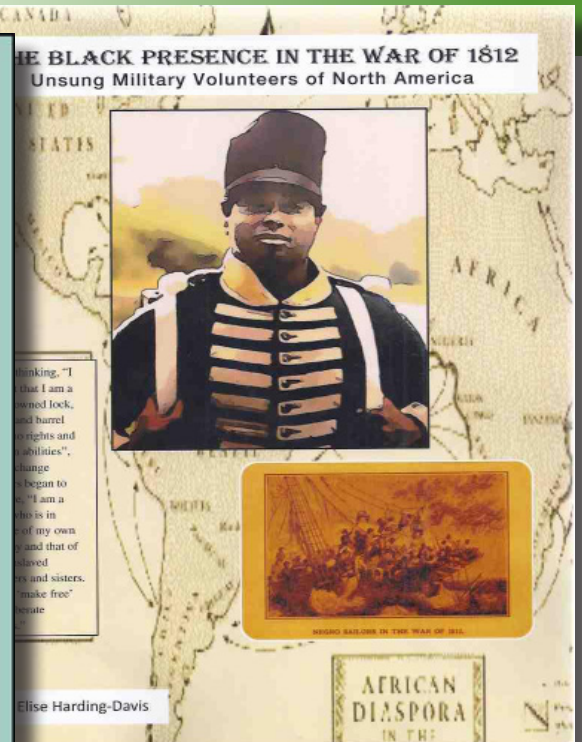
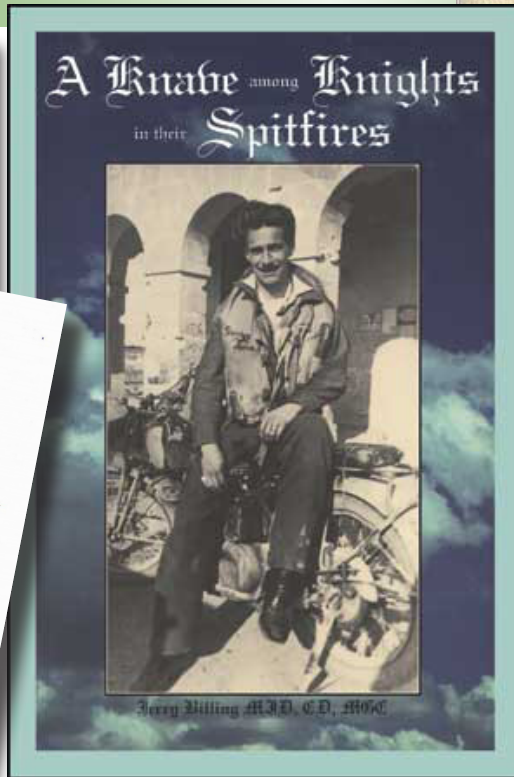
At that time, this was a huge sum, and likely makes the reward for Girty more than anything ever offered for Jesse James or Billy the Kid in actual value.



4 At the Resource Centre



1814
THE
DEADLIEST
BATTLE ON
ESSEX COUNTY
SOIL



thinking, "I
that I am a
opened lock,
and barrel
rights and
abilities",
change
began to
"I am a
his is in
of my own
and that of
slaved
ys and sisters.
"make free"
estate

Elise Harding-Davis

AFRICAN
DIASPORA
IN THE

At HEIRS we have a good selection of materials for sale, including biographies, stories of important events in Canadian history, and local landmarks worth visiting. Curling up with a good book is a great way to spend a quiet evening & may get you planning some day trips when Spring returns again. (Trust me, it will return!)

This is only a selection of what our "book store" has to offer. Drop in any Tuesday or Thursday from 10 AM to 3 PM, or at our meetings to see what's available. **Some titles are near the end of their run. It's possible they will become difficult to find. For example, we have just 4 copies remaining of the Anderdon book... and it is very good.**

Colchester 225:150 Historical Facts - compiled by the Town of Essex	80 pages	\$20.00
Anderdon - A History of the Township - written by Mark Warren	419 pages	\$40.00
Black Presence in the War of 1812- by Elise Harding-Davis	62 pages	\$15.00
Deadliest Battle on Essex County Soil- by Chris Carter	36 pages	\$8.00
Essex County in the 1830s - published by Tour Group Essex	313 pages	\$25.00
Essex-The Lost Communities - by Chris Carter & David Dicaire	143 pages	\$15.00
The Grovedale House - by Robert Lynch	88 pages	\$10.00
Harrow and Colchester South- published by HEIRS	213 pages	\$25.00
Iler Settlement- (1808-2008) - by Edwin & Edith Woodbridge	104 pages	\$20.00
Kingsville (1790-2000) -by Kingsville-Gosfield Heritage Society	382 pages	\$35.00
Knave Among Knights in Their Spitfires - by Jerry Billing	153 pages	\$20.00
New Canaan: Freedom Land - by Edward Milo Johnson	340 pages	\$30.00

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. AMHERSTBURG BRANCH.

C. A. MacMAHON, Manager.

M. I. LANE, Manager.

LOST.

LOST—Strayed from my place, Verona, on Sunday, Feb. 29th, 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. F. Hildreth, Verona.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL.

Miss Wm. Hanson's condition kept about the same. Dr. M. J. Galt to my (Mrs.) Hanson's house, called by a

MALDEN.

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

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

Wm. Golden suffering from being attacked of influenza rheumatism.

Mrs. Alice McLean, of Windsor, is on coming after, about

Miss Wm. Hanson's condition kept about the same. Dr. M. J. Galt to my (Mrs.) Hanson's house, called by a

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 \$20 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. H. Davis for defendant. The action was tried before me at the last sittings 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., where the plaintiff alleges was in a dangerous state of disrepair. It is opposed 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 neglect. 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 out of repair. The law provides that the burden of proof is on the plaintiff to show that the sidewalk was out of repair. The evidence in this case is that the sidewalk was out of repair. The law provides that the burden of proof is on the plaintiff to show that the sidewalk was out of repair. The evidence in this case is that the sidewalk was out of repair.

ANDERDON COUNCIL.

Saturday, Feb. 27th.

Council met in regular session with all members present. Moved by Messrs. Groulx and Cote, that the minutes just read be adopted.—Carried. Moved by Messrs. Volans and Cote, that Fred Pagnou get a warrant for \$4 groceries furnished to the Veronesi.—Carried. Moved by Messrs. Cote and Antonia Lenoir get a clearing ice from 60 and Wilbert Sutte bridge on south side. Moved by Messrs. that Isaac Groulx refund of dog tax.—Messrs. Cote and Antonia got a warrant for \$4 groceries furnished to the Veronesi.—Carried. Moved by Messrs. Willis Howard statute labour, applied for a side line in or for the water property. and Cote, Corbin, and

BURK BROS.



January 3

A deal between Frank Herdman and C. E. Drummond by which Herdman gets the Drummond House and property in exchange for his blacksmith shop and Marshfield farm. Mr. Herdman expects to put someone in charge of the hotel and run it as a boarding house.

January 10

Webster block was burned out, but fire was confined to one building. The building was located opposite Colin Arner's dwelling. Could not save any of the effects of Ross Quick's barber shop nor any portion of the building. Flames broke through the Masonic Lodge room windows and did damage to the lodge, while the grocery stock of F. H. Ferriss was damaged by water and smoke.

The wall and roof of the Bell telephone building was slightly damaged, 2 poles containing the cable were burned off, the wires broken, putting the phone service out of commission. Fire equipment worked well, but the water ran out, emphasizing the necessity of having more wells put down in the business section right away.

January 17

Charles Pigeon is circulating a well-signed petition to open a dining room in the Drummond House, which he recently purchased.

January 24

Mahlon Thrasher has rented the Herdman shop from F. H. Ferriss and has turned it into a garage and auto repair shop.

Captain C. H. Bassett has disposed of his farm, East Harrow, to Frank Walton. Frank sold his farm to his brother Stanley.

January 31

Restoration of pre-war service on Monday when trains (6 east in the morning, and 7 west in the evening) resumed.

Death of Mrs. Hartson Fawdry, a bride of only 11 months. She had looked after her mother-in-law, Mrs. Charles Fawdry, when she had influenza. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jenner, and is survived by brother Stanley and 3 sisters.

6 From the HEIRS Lending Library

I recently received a parcel at my door, unexpectedly. A good friend of mine (and HEIRS) had created a poster of the last 54 HEIRS newsletter covers and sent it for my home office wall. **Fifty-four covers! Unbelievable!**

Over the last 6 years, 9 newsletter issues per year and 48 meetings have been put together and presented on an amazing range of topics.

We learned about Matthew Elliott, the Park Homestead, John McCrae, the local Caldwell Indians, Bass Reeves (the real Lone Ranger), the Fathers of Confederation, Simon Girty & many more.

I'm often asked where the ideas come from and if we aren't running out of topics. The answer is **'No'**. I receive suggestions from others directors and members, and often read about a story that triggers a meeting.

One of the best sources is a magazine called 'Canada's History', available monthly at HEIRS. It's a great collection of fascinating facts and photos, which for me are starting points for a newsletter article or even a meeting.

A story that interests me might also interest our members, and off I go!

Accompanying photos are common and the topics are just slightly unusual, which makes a reader want to know the full story. One cover featured Sitting Bull, the Sioux chief which told of the tribe's difficulties in Canada after the Battle of Little Big Horn (and Custer's disastrous defeat).



Another story (likely the basis for an upcoming HEIRS meeting) told of tricks used by POWs during the War to hide things from their Nazi captors.

Single page articles might feature items from the history of the Hudson's Bay Company, or a Cree cradleboard, or even Viking artifacts from L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland.

I am fortunate that they provide me with building blocks for our meetings and newsletters, allowing me to share my wide-ranging interests.

These magazines are in the HEIRS research centre in 2 racks. They're another treasure that offer a great way to cosy up in front of the fire with a good book.

These magazines provide learning, awaken curiosity and make readers proud of our amazing Canadian history.

Why not turn off the idiot box, put on some soft music, and do some reading?

HEIRS Newsletter Covers (2013-2018)



The Treasures of HEIRS

- by Ted Steele, HEIRS Director



As I struggled to settle on a topic for this page, I was continually reminding myself that I had few paragraphs to use for the Upcoming Events page, since not much is planned for the January - February months.

Then it occurred to me that our ancestors faced a similar problem of much greater severity long ago, with short days, long cold nights and extended periods of being snow-bound. Thus the topic became evident.

As the harvest season ended, with food stored away for man and beast, one of a pioneer family's biggest yearly challenges arrived. By December, the daylight lasted only a few hours and the daily chores that needed to be done, had to be done within this interval. With limited resources to use as medication, any form of disease was serious, as was any injury.

Adding to the health problem was the fact that their food was usually not very nutritious. Mothers had to use whatever was available and then make it as tasty as possible. A fire to be tended constantly, required a huge supply of cut, dried wood kept near the house.

Living indoors meant the need for candles, which had been made and placed aside for use. These were prized and were not used in excess, as when they were gone, they could not be replaced. That resulted in frequently dim lighting for reading, sewing and the myriad other chores to be done.

Over time, eyes got irritated by the candle fumes and strained from the poor lighting. As early as possible, candles would have been extinguished and firelight alone lit the interior. At these times, a grandparent would likely gather the children in front of the fire for



Not until the 1850's would big meals and celebrations at Christmas become the norm.

In the evening, as the fire began to dwindle, everyone went off to their warm (?) bed, with little to do of interest at the end of another long bleak winter day. With nights being long and cold, it was quite normal for a family to find itself with 8 or more children, often spaced apart about every 2 years.



stories, or a family member with some musical ability might get out their fiddle for old hymns that they all knew. This would mark the winding down of the day's activities.

If the snowfall was not excessive, the family could manage to meet with neighbours occasionally, to exchange news, items needed and to maintain social connections.

Often young people saw only the neighbouring children, so their circle of friends and potential mates was limited. Some familiarity between groups was important, even during a harsh winter.

At Church on Sunday, if it were possible at all, everyone met to pray together for divine support, and to reassure each other that better days were coming. Christmas was a time of religious celebration, not the commercial venture it has become now.

Natural items like evergreen boughs, berries & pine cones were used to decorate & lift spirits, but food, as always was rationed carefully.

Although this meant more mouths to feed, it also meant more help with the daily chores.

All of this is a testament to the bond between the couples, who faced great challenges and hardships together, but somehow managed. It also speaks to relying on each other for support, comfort & warmth on long cold nights.



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

\$25 CDN / U.S. per person or couple.

Memberships run May 1st to 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

\$5 per visit (+ photocopy costs).

Mailing Address

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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