

Vol. 1– January 2021



HEIRS

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society

n e w s l e t t e r



Finally,

a reason to celebrate...

Welcome to the January 2021 newsletter.

Okay so only a few days in and I've already broken most of my resolutions – even some I had not proclaimed yet.

*A new year is like the first 'real' day of Spring, full of enthusiasm & expectation of something great yet to come. And this year, maybe we're even more hopeful for what the future will bring. **So let's be positive.** Let's look at those things in life, big or small, that we can celebrate while we wait (& wait) for the change that IS going to come.*

One of those things to celebrate, the 50th Anniversary of HEIRS.

Just think of how many people have been positively influenced by HEIRS over the years. They may have discovered the 'missing link' in their family tree, uncovered photographs of relatives previously unseen, and through our monthly meetings have learned so much more about this community and the people who built it, literally from the grass roots on up.

That's worth celebrating!

And of course we need a visible reminder of this accomplishment, after all 50 years is quite remarkable for this small organization, in a small part of the world. And so this image is yours. Share it with friends & family, in your email salutation, on Pinterest or FaceBook.

Be proud you are a member of a group, that is even prouder to have you as a member!

Stay safe. - Rick McCormick



Our cancelled May 2020 meeting was going to feature a trivia challenge about people we all knew, but may now have difficulty recalling. We thought this might be a good page to put in for a smile, since we've all been playing games over the past year anyway...

How many of these can you recall, as we ask our members, WHO DAT?

You are on your honour here... if you get the correct answer, score 3 points.

If you have to sneak a peek for the answer(s) on page 5, score 0.

- 1. Who said to a neighbourhood kid, "Gee, Eddie, Wally is your best friend and he doesn't like you much either."?***
- 2. In old comic books, who was Little Lulu's boyfriend?***
- 3. Who said, "The Faygo Kid- which way did he go, which way did he go?"***
- 4. In Mayberry, Aunt Bea took care of Sheriff Andy Taylor and his son. Name the son.***
- 5. What straight-laced TV detective often said "Just the facts, Ma'am", when questioning a witness?***
- 6. What band leader on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson became famous for his wardrobe which featured loud patterns & flamboyant styling?***
- 7. What real person was the host on the children's program, "Howdy Doody"?***
- 8. Who hosted a Sunday night variety show, and was famously referred to as "Old Stoneface"?***
- 9. Name the major TV variety show star tugged on her earlobe each week as a signal to her grandmother?***
- 10. What Canadian actor played the lead with Julie Andrews in "The Sound of Music"?***
- 11. In a long series of comedies in the 40s & 50s, which of the Bowery Boys was named 'Horace DeBussey Jones', but was better known by what nickname?***
- 12. Jed Clampett of the Beverly Hillbillies was played by Buddy Ebsen, a former song and dance man & former TV partner of what legendary TV frontiersman?***
- 13. Name the character on The Honeymooners who famously worked in the New York City sewers.***
- 14. In the 50s comic strips, L'il Abner, Daisy Mae, the Yokums and many others lived in what hillbilly town? (This is where Sadie Hawkins Day originated, when single girls could marry any bachelor they dragged across the line by sundown in the town square. Today we have a Sadie Hawkins dance in her honour – Ladies' Choice.)***

The Amherstburg Echo.

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE COUNTY

Vol. XXX No. 15

AMHERSTBURG, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1904.

Whole No. 2474

100 ACRES FOR SALE.

In and near, Amherst Township, about 4 miles from Amherstburg, 20 acres of best, some small buildings. For further particulars and price, see

FALLS BROS., Agts.
Amherstburg.

LIME FOR SALE
IN
CARLOAD LOTS.

THE SOVEREIGN BANK OF CANADA.

HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO, ONT.

Capital Paid Up \$1,000,000
Reserve and Undivided Profits \$1,000,000
Assets \$2,000,000

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LODS.

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Additional Local
Branches at
Malden, Harrow, and other places.
For further particulars apply to the
Manager at any of the above branches.

BROKER vs. AMHERSTBURG.

Judge McHugh
Refuses to grant the
order.

At the recent sitting of the Division Court in Amherstburg, Mr. Justice McHugh refused to grant the order of the plaintiff, the Amherstburg and District Bank, for the appointment of a receiver of the assets of the defendant, the Amherstburg and District Bank, on the ground that the plaintiff had not shown that it was entitled to the appointment of a receiver.

ANDERSON COUNCIL.

Resolved, Feb. 25th.

Resolved that the members of the Anderson Council be authorized to purchase Victory Bonds in the amount of \$1000.

BURK BROS.



Jan 7 1921

Mrs. John Wilson is able to be out again after being laid-up from the effects of a cold.

The IODE will hold their their regular meeting on Friday next, January 14th at 2:30 in their rooms over Darby's Drug Store.

There is no lack of excitement in Harrow now, as the movies were opened in the town hall Tuesday night. The place was packed and manager VonGunton showed a Goldwyn picture which the audience greatly enjoyed.

Friday & Saturday Jan 14 & 15 C.K. Young in "The Unpardonable Sin" an 8-reel picture Admission - Adults 27 cents; children 16 cents

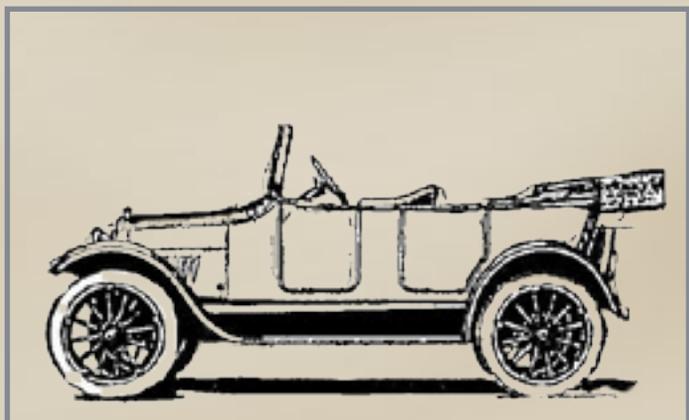
Jan 14

Mrs Gordon Wright, sister of Hon. NW Rowell, will speak twice in the Methodist church next Sunday and everybody ought to get out and hear her speak on Prohibition.

Jan 28

Any person wishing to purchase Victory Bonds can get same from J. H. Madill.

Fishermen are putting up ice from 6 to 9 inches thick.



1921 Chevrolet 4 -90
Touring Car

\$1025, plus freight

In my massive files I found a post card which may be of more interest to an HEIRS member. It shows an apparent local 1900s house with a message on reverse. If the signee has kinfolk still in the Harrow area, they may have the card; let me know at historynut@outlook.com point. HEIRS is NOT a museum, so a home needs to be found for this item. -Ted



Quiz Answers

1. Jerry Mathers or Beaver Cleaver on Leave It To Beaver, as said to Eddie Haskell.
2. Tubby Tompkins, pudgy with red hair.
3. Black Bart was that villain.
4. Opie Taylor. (now known as film director Ron Howard)
5. Jack Webb played Joe Friday on Dragnet.
6. Doc Severinsen (now 93 years old)
7. That was Buffalo Bob Smith.
8. Ed Sullivan and the Toast of the Town on Sunday nights.
9. Carol Burnett
10. Christopher Plummer
11. 'Satch' was the 'dumbest' of the Bowery Boys, and the most fun.
12. Buddy Ebsen was the pal of Davy Crocket in 3 Disney productions – his character's name was Georgie Russell.
13. Art Carney played Ed Norton, on the Honeymooners which last one year on TV. A Yogi Bear-like sewer worker, Norton was created 5 years before there was even Yogi & Booboo. He did have the same hat, speech pattern and perhaps IQ.
14. The Yokums and friends were denizens of Dogpatch, USA. Big Barnsmell worked in the Skunk Factory, and brewed Kickapoo Joy Juice.

6 Local Families

HEIRS will feature a brief outline of a local Essex County families that have been a part of our history for many years. Our members are asked to submit an outline of their own family, even in point form, for us to build on & present. As we bid goodbye to a terrible year, it seems fitting that we start our series with the family of one of our cherished members who left us far too soon- that of Kathy Langlois. The former director & secretary for HEIRS, Kathy wrote this family summary some time ago, and fortunately has left it with us to share. With minor editing we present...

The Marentette/Marontate Family Story - by Kathy Langlois

The first ancestor of the Marentette/Marontate family came to Montreal on May 18, 1642 from France, with his wife and 4 children. He was born in France in 1583, and was killed along with his son-in-law, on Oct. 25, 1657 by the Iroquois while working on the roof of his house. His name was Nicolas Godet. Yes, I said Godet, not Marentette.

Let me explain. On November 4, 1698, Nicolas Godet's grandson, Jacques Godet, married a woman by the name of Marguerite Duguay dit Marentette. The Marentette part of her name must have been important as they retained it, and Jacques and Marguerite's 12 children were given the last name of Godet dit Marentette.

Two of Jacques and Marguerite's sons (Jacques & Francois) came to the Detroit River region of Sandwich (now part of west Windsor) before 1743. They both married and between the two of them fathered 22 children. Many of these children married and carried on the name and the large family tradition.

Jacques was granted a concession of land, located east of the present day Ambassador Bridge between Askin and Curry Avenues. Francois was a Lieutenant in the Detroit Militia, and purchased 4 arpents of land (an arpent, a French measure of land, equals ~ 5/6 of an acre). Francois then added more land over the next few years, as some of the original land was disposed of to support the newly

constituted Assumption Parish. Francois was Warden of the Assumption Parish and owned lot # 89. The name Godet dit Marentette was retained for a few more generations and then, eventually the Godet part was dropped, leaving only the last name of Marentette.

Francois' grandson, Antoine Marentette, enrolled in the 2nd Essex Militia in Col. Baby's battalion in Captain Maisonville's company to fight in the War of 1812 on the side of the British. After Antoine was discharged in 1815, the King of England, as was the custom of the time, awarded land to his faithful soldiers. Thus, Antoine was awarded prime land and settled on lot 94, 1st concession of Colchester South. On June 19, 1817, he married Josette Langlois and they had 9 children.

In the 1851 and 1861 censuses of Colchester, the census taker noted that neither Antoine nor Josette could read or write, so he entered their name as Marontate, and that spelling prevailed. Therefore, anyone with the spelling of their last name as Marontate would likely be a descendant of Antoine and Josette.

Antoine was my GGG grandfather. My grandparents were Glen & Marie (Mary Louis Boussey) Marontate. Glen & Marie had 10 children, of which my mother, Catherine, was the 3rd eldest. Catherine married Lawrence Langlois; they had 4 children, with me, Kathy being their 3rd eldest.

McCormick Family Cemetery Sign

- by Rick McCormick

If you missed seeing Shelby Wye's article, (Dec. 1st, Harrow NEWS), here's the info you need to know...

In 2003, the McCormick Family Cemetery was rededicated with a provincial plaque & family signage erected to honour the pioneer Alexander McCormick, his wife & family buried on the old family farm. The site lies in the middle of their field, off Dunn Road. The rededication was spearheaded by HEIRS members Edith Woodbridge, Beth (McCormick) Karrow & Marion (Belch) McCormick.

In August 2019, I hired a student to take photos at the site. I was disheartened to see how weathered the sign was, being barely readable. I decided to have it replaced to honour my Essex County pioneer ancestors.

After contacting many organizations & individuals over the next months, it was not until I contacted the Town of Essex & Deputy Clerk Shelley Brown, that real action began. With her enthusiasm & the assistance of Richard Beausoleil (the project's physical lead), replacement moved forward. On November 20, 2020 the new sign in a protective frame with an improved mount was installed.

I then hired a drone video company to fly over the site so others folks unable to attend the site physically could see images & video of the gravesite. Click this link to view my website, dedicated to Alexander & his family & the cemetery pages.

<https://alexandermccormickuel.weebly.com/mccormick-family-cemetery.html>

For those who visit the site in person over the next years, let's ensure the sign remains in good condition... until it too needs replacement.



History As It Used to Was...

- by Ted Steele, HEIRS Director

I have been interested in the topic of DNA testing for some time, and wanted to have a meeting or newsletter page on the topic.

Then in November 2020, I picked up a copy of a magazine with a story of people who had absolutely no information on their heredity or background, since they were all 'given away' at birth. The only way to actually figure out who they were & what their backgrounds might be, would likely rest on DNA.

We are all the product of those who came before us; thousands of individuals have passed their own genes along, contributing to our specific "gene pool" making us who we are. My GGG - grandmother Martha was born in the early 1830s, and she, among many many others, contributed to my genetic makeup.

A bank of DNA info has been compiled by Ancestry & other such companies, which allows a person to have their own DNA sample compared with thousands of others, for possible matches. The more the samples match each other, the closer the familiar connection.

If someone adopted at birth submitted their DNA sample for comparison & some unknown relative did the same, their 2 samples could be compared and possibly matched. Then, with their permissions, the detailed info could be exchanged & they might even choose to make direct contact.

Anyone who does not give their permission about exchanging information would remain an anonymous match.

I know of someone who had no living kin other than her mother, who had refused to identify her father. Once the mother died, she was alone in the world- other than her own husband and children. She had no way to go back through previous generations.

In desperation, she submitted her DNA for testing, and found a match. This person had submitted DNA on a whim, and was also amazed to find a match, and they have since been in contact. She is no longer without a family!

Children given up for adoption might find new family they were unaware of or a person doing genealogical research might well find new contacts in their extended family too.

However, it should be pointed out that if 2 complete strangers match fairly closely, and exchange personal information, it may reveal a secret from the past, unknown to both involved.

This might be a baby born out of wedlock and given away, or from an extramarital affair long ago. I have heard of couples considering marriage who have learned through DNA that they are siblings or have some other familial ties.

DNA for law enforcement forces reveal secrets about people & events they are investigating; it may reveal secrets about those being tested in a search for kin, living or dead.

Those who use DNA testing ought to be prepared for some surprises in the results, as secrets are uncovered, truth is revealed, and it is necessary that it be accepted for what it tells them.

I believe most families have untold stories, and some surely have skeletons in the closet. Be prepared for a surprise or 2, if you have your DNA tested, though surprises can also be pleasant ones!



In our next issue, I'll take a closer look at the main players in the DNA testing kit business, and see how they compare.

Not all offer the same information feedback, prices vary, and so does reliability.

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

\$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).

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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