

Vol. 4– April 2015

H.E.I.R.S.

newsletter

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society



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Harrow & Colchester South
Community Centre (Arena Bldg.)



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April Meeting:

J.R. Park Homestead - Upcoming Events & Long Term Plans

Newsletter News!

Welcome to the April edition....

April, a time of change and renewal...

(and more long-lasting than those temporary New Year's resolutions).

*Noisy birds announcing spring, the return of scavengers to our yards (and bins), and rodents seeking new homes amongst our sprouting gardens - **is there really a better time of year?***

And it may be the best time to plan our late spring and summer excursions. Just for fun, or maybe with the added bonus of discovering more about our past history too!

Have ancestors who came to Upper Canada from another country?

Perhaps this is the year to visit those places of births, marriages & lives that you see listed in your family tree. Locales where you have never seen before. Why not take a belated walk in your ancestors' shoes (boots) to see the countryside, & roads they travelled with their families?

Record all you can & keep in touch!

April Meeting

When: Thursday, April 23rd, 1:30 PM

Where: Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Centre



The HEIRS meeting on April 23 will feature speaker Kris Ives, who is the curator of the J. R. Park Homestead.

Having taken over from the retired curator Janet Cobban during the past winter, Kris has been busy designing and implementing new events for the Homestead, as well as continuing with popular events such as the Maple Sugaring Time and the Blueberry Social.

Kris will bring us up to date on what to expect for the coming season, and long range plans for this wonderful bit of rustic 1850 which is ours to enjoy right in our midst. The house itself brings back the living style of a well-to-do colonial business family, and the grounds with its garden and spectacular view of Lake Erie are a treat to explore on a warm sunny day.

Kris will have us all making plans to visit the Homestead to enjoy what it has to offer.

On March 26, HEIRS met to hear a presentation on the Rebellions of 1837-39 by HEIRS director Ted Steele.

The talk included the basic causes of the unrest, and the battles between government-loyal forces and the rebels, who were at times joined by “Patriots”, Americans who wished to take control of Canada away from the British so that it could be absorbed into the American state.

Here in Essex County, these “patriots” took part in battles at Point Pelee, in Amherstburg, and invaded Windsor itself in an ill-fated raid. It was pointed out that our local Essex County history is anything but dull, and more people should be made aware of these events.

More information about this can be found on the Upcoming Events page of this newsletter.



To this goal, Ted is also speaking on the same topic at the Windsor Community Museum on April 2 at 7 PM, representing HEIRS and telling another “story that needs to be told”.

Also at the March meeting, Ruth Hutchins Nicholson, UE spoke about the upcoming ceremony to be held in May honouring 2 local veterans of the War of 1812, Isaac Ferriss and William Hutchins.



4 Upcoming Events

You are invited to a heritage event – a long time coming!

Plaquing event initiated by the Federal Government for War of 1812 Veterans

– never before recognized as this war took place before Canada became a country.

Date: Saturday May 23, 2015 at 2 p.m.

Two Locations:

1. St. Andrew's Anglican Church, 212 King St. Harrow (behind church) for **Veteran Isaac Ferriss**
2. Then moving to the Hutchins' Pioneer Cemetery - Pathway just S of CR 50 on Cornwall Beach Rd for **Veteran William Hutchins I**

Rev. Jonathan Forbes officiating / Refreshments following 2nd ceremony.



New Honour for War of 1812 Veterans by the Canadian Government:

War of 1812 Graveside Recognition Project <http://1812veterans.ca/en/index.php>

Sisters, Susan McCloskey Hutchins and Ruth Hutchins Nicholson will be hosting a graveside remembrance service on May 23rd 2015 to honour both Isaac Ferriss and William Hutchins for their roles in the War of 1812-14 in the local Essex County area as part of the Essex 1st Militia under Captain William Caldwell, Colonel Matthew Elliott and ultimately Major General Isaac Brock.

It must be remembered that they fought under General Brock's direction but that he worked in co-ordination with the great Shawnee Chief Tecumseh to bring about the great victory at Fort Detroit in 1812. Isaac's and William's names were easily found in the pay lists of Fort Malden. Isaac Ferriss signed his own name, but William used his "x" mark as his signature, true to most of the men whom we have researched in our early Loyalist lineages.

We are very happy that the Government of Canada has chosen to recognize these early military men who fought for the British to hold the line on the invading new republic, The United States of America. ***If this early generation of settlers had not fought for our country at that time, we would not be enjoying the Canada we know today.***

**WINDSOR SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
DINNER & SHOW**

APRIL 18, 2015

Dinner at 6pm Performance at 8pm
Cash Bar ~ Full Course Buffet

Enjoy a mix of Broadway musicals with vocals.

Tickets: \$50.00 per person

Limited Tickets Available

Price includes taxes & tips.

Experience a night of musical excellence in the County!



Enjoy a first class dinner at the CTMHV followed by an entertaining and relaxing evening listening to the talents of the Windsor Symphony Orchestra while helping to preserve one of Heritage Village's historic cabins.



6155 Arner Townline, Essex ON

519-776-6909

www.ctmhv.com

Duty Nobly Done

- by Sandy Antal

Local author and historian Sandy Antal has written a number of books about the history of Essex County, one of which is the history of the Essex Scottish Regiment, called "Duty Nobly Done".

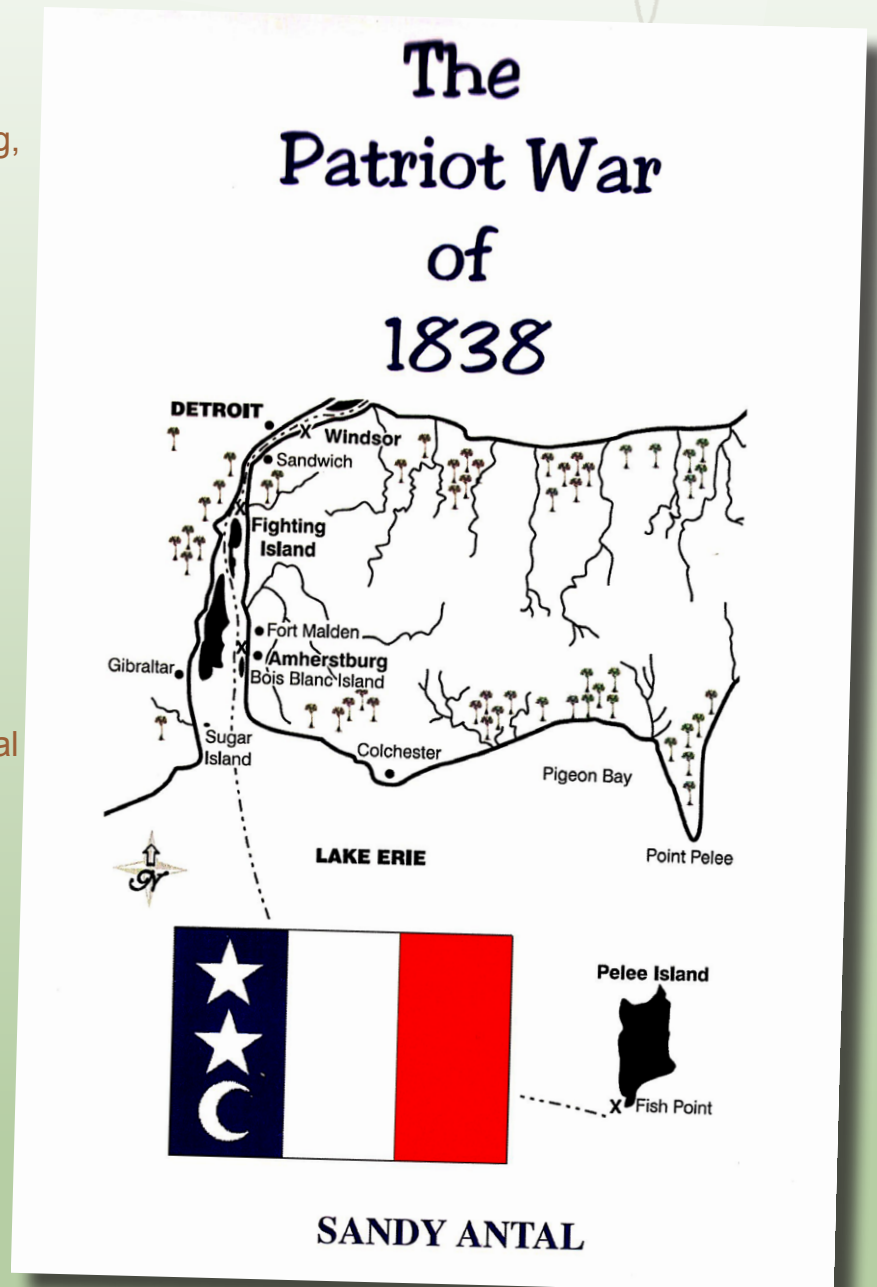
A section of this large book has been separately printed under the title, 'The Patriot Wars of 1838'. This is a paper-bound book of 29 pages, which tells of the turmoil during the years 1837-39, especially during 1838 when Essex County at various points became a battlefield.

Included you will find the Battle of Windsor, the Battle of Pelee Island, the attack on Fort Malden and Amherstburg, and more.

A few black and white photographs and maps are included. This forms an easy-to-read summary of these important, yet barely known events, and many readers will have had ancestors involved in the various conflicts.

Those wishing to pass these stories on to children and grandchildren will find it the perfect guide to these local historical events.

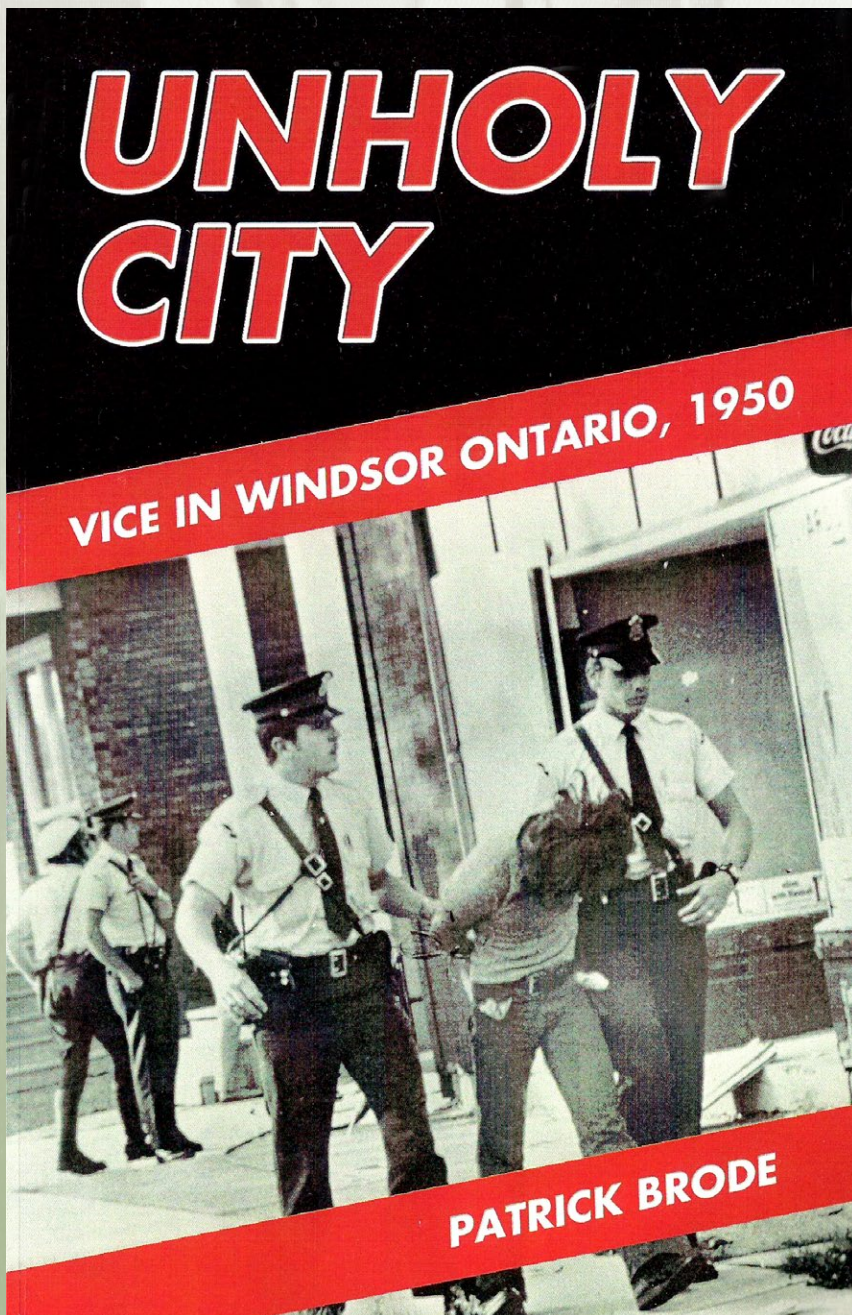
You can pick up your copy from HEIRS for \$15.



Unholy City - Vice In Windsor, Ontario, 1950

- by Patrick Brode

A new book called, "Unholy City - Vice In Windsor, Ontario, 1950" is now available for purchase at HEIRS. This paper-bound book of 176 pages, tells the story of the city as it really was - with its illegal drinking establishments, rampant prostitution, barely concealed gambling culture, and the officials of the day who overlooked these proceedings, and sometimes took part in them.



The book is written by Patrick Brode, an award winning author and a Windsor lawyer himself. He provides names of prominent citizens, dates and places of events, and peels the lid off the seedy side of local and recent history.

Well known Toronto reporter Gordon Sinclair referred to Windsor as "a lurid, sin-soaked frontier town where gambling, blind pigs, prostitution and violence were routine behaviour patterns".

To learn how this came about, and what was done to bring about changes, as well as to learn some of the scandalous details involved, this is just the book for you.

Priced at only \$15, you can get your copy from HEIRS.

The Business Side of HEIRS:

Membership dues are about to expire for the current year.

To remain up-to-date, please renew by May 1, 2015, with your greatly appreciated, \$25 payment.

Members can check with HEIRS secretary Kathy Langlois, to ensure you are not currently in arrears.

Our May gathering ends the current season as meetings cease until September.

The May meeting is a social event, but the business of the election of Directors must be concluded as well. Please consider joining as a Director to help keep HEIRS alive, well and moving ahead.

June's newsletter will outline the various summer projects and activities.

A group like HEIRS is only as healthy as the interest shown by its members.

American Star Lodge No. 4's

4-Square Club Inc.

presents a

PAST MASTER BANQUET

Honouring

JAMES "FRED" JOHNSON, PM PH

Knights of Columbus Hall #2844

9560 Walker Rd., McGregor

Saturday, May 2, 2015

Cocktails: 5:00 pm ~ Dinner: 6:00 pm

Come out and honour Fred and his loyal Lady, Ivy.

Observe Fred's many contributions to Prince Hall Masonry and to his community.

~ Semi-Formal ~

Donation: \$50.00 per person

******SEATING IS LIMITED******

Proceeds are to be directed toward our Annual Scholarship Fund

Contact Everet Mulder for tickets at 519-965-3610 before April 15th

The Foxes of Essex County

(excerpt from the writings of David Botsford, 1963)

Phillip Fox was a native of Baden, Germany, as was his wife, Catherine Lauer. They were born about 1740, and their first child Jonas was born in 1764. In 1772 they arrived in Maryland, where they remained 4 years, then moving to Pennsylvania.

They were evidently neighbours there of fellow German John Wendel Wigle, as a few years later they made the trek together to Detroit.

By this time, the family consisted of 8 sons and 2 daughters, namely Jonas, Phillip, Margaret, Judith, Michael, George, Henry, Adam, Jacob and John. All eventually married and helped to spread the Fox name around Essex County.

In 1792, land became available for these Loyalists; John Wendel Wigle was granted lot 5, Gosfield Township, Phillip Fox received lot 10, and fellow German Leonard Kratz (or Scratch) was given lot 9. The grants at least partly explains why these 3 families are so commonly intermarried.

To illustrate these intermarriages here's a small sample...

John Wigle Jr. married Susannah Scratch

Wendel Wigle married Isabella Scratch;

Mary Wigle married Peter Scratch

Elizabeth Wigle married Michael Fox

Madeline Wigle married Jacob Fox and

Julianna Wigle married George Fox.

The story is told of a stranger visiting in Gosfield who was informed of a method that he could use to identify inhabitants....

If he met a red-headed man, he could surely address him as "Mr. Fox".

If he met a tall blond man with a child on his shoulder, he could safely say, "Good day, Mr. Scratch".

If he were to meet a man with a child on his arm, another on his back, and several trailing behind, that was certainly a "Mr. Wigle".




OPEN TO PUBLIC
FREE ADMISSION

Cast Iron Seat Collectors
ANNUAL SPRING MEET
Buy • Sell • Trade • Consignment Auction at 3:30pm

Tables Available to Members
Cast Iron Seats • Wrenches • Drill Ends • Tool Boxes
Corn Planter Lids • Mower Lids • Corn Shellers
Many More Farm Primitives

Saturday, April 18th, 2015
from 8:00am to 4:00pm

Location: Harrow Fairgrounds
134 McAfee St. South Harrow, Ontario
Take Walker Rd exit off of 401, follow County Rd 11 South to Harrow
Or follow Howard Ave/County Rd 9 South to County Rd 20 then turn East towards Harrow

Camping : Electricity hookup available at Fairgrounds for \$20.00

Motels: **Adam's Golden Acres Motel**
County Rd 20, 1 mile west of Kingsville phone: 519-733-6531
Duffy's Motor Inn
296 Dalhousie St. Amherstburg phone: 519-736-2101

Feature - "LOCAL SEATS"

For more information contact: Peter and Theresa Timmins
Box 302 Harrow, Ontario N0R 1G0
phone: 519-738-2526 email: ptimmins@acn.net

Food Available by the Local 4H Club

Everyone is welcome to see the
Historical Relics of Agriculture's Past 100+ years.
Club Membership Available to anyone wishing to join and participate in the hobby.

Hours of Operation: September to June (excluding December)

Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM - 3PM, Wednesday or other appointments: (Please call to confirm hours.)

Memberships Due: May 2014 to April 2015: \$25 per person / couple (CDN / U.S.)
Send cheque to: HEIRS PO Box 53, Harrow ON Canada N0R 1G0

Please include your phone, fax, email, website & names you are now researching.

Non-member user fee for HEIRS Research Library, as of January 2013: \$5 / visit (+ photocopy costs).

HEIRS Newsletter

The HEIRS newsletter is published 9 times per year, in conjunction with General Meetings held on the 4th Thursday of the month, from September through June (with the exception of December).

Newsletters via Email

If you currently receive our newsletter by mail and would prefer to receive it by email, simply provide your email address to any one of our newsletter committee members. Not only will you be able to archive the full colour newsletter PDF easily on your computer, it will save HEIRS the extra handling, reproduction and mailing costs.

Special thanks to Greg Harrison at the Computer Centre in Harrow, for his ongoing support of all things technical, setting up our new equipment, and keeping things running smoothly.



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