

Vol. 5 – May 2013

H.E.I.R.S. newsletter

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society



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Harrow & Colchester South
Community Centre (Arena Bldg.)



Inside this Issue...

May meeting:

- Heirlooms, Treasures & Pot Luck Dinner

Newsletter News!

Our fifth newsletter of 2013 is already here. Seems like we were just tossing out our holiday paper a few weeks ago.

We are just around the corner from our breaking out our favourite pain killers and liniments due to overexerting ourselves in the garden. But those glorious June nights will be welcomed after our late spring surprises. Speaking of surprises, it is always interesting to see the great relics brought out, dusted off and shared at the May meeting, - along with some great food to share.

The perfect way to get out in the good weather?

May Meeting

When: Thursday, **May 23rd, 6:30 PM - Special Time**

Where: Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Centre

Our May meeting will be the annual Pot Luck Dinner, as well as an election for a Director's position on the Board of Directors for HEIRS. Please note the time change...this meeting will be at 6:30 P.M., in the meeting room of the Harrow-Colchester Arena.

Anyone who would like to join the Board of Directors of HEIRS is invited and encouraged to submit his or her name between now and May 23rd.

In addition, since we do not normally have a speaker for this meeting, all members are invited to bring a family heirloom, an antique, anything old and unusual to be displayed and admired at this gathering. Following the business part of the meeting, our focus shifts to a social time of food, refreshments and conversation. The business meeting will follow the food and conversation at 6:30 PM.

Please bring a food item to share and your own dishes and cutlery.

Last year's meeting provided a number of very interesting personal artifacts and historical items. Come out & show others what family treasures you have collected over the years.



Early Grain Mills of Ontario

The April meeting of HEIRS featured Mr. Herb Colling, who has written four books on topics of local interest. His focus was the book, "Grist For The Mill", on the history of the early grain mills of Ontario. He was originally hired by the town of La Salle to explore the history of the very early mill that was built there in the late 1700s. This project grew and expanded to include many other communities and the mills of their pasts.

Herb explained the importance of having some method of grinding the grains into flour to provide the "daily bread" to survive, and the hard manual labour required, unless a water powered mill was reasonably near. These mills used the flow of water, either over or under a huge water wheel, to turn large circular stones upon each other to grind the grains between them into flour. This often meant long treks on foot carrying heavy bags of grain to the mill. Once ground into flour, they were carried home again, often many miles. The miller would collect a share of the flour as his fee. **Small wonder that communities grew up around these important structures, which allowed a regular food supply to be maintained for the families.**

Surviving mills are today used as museums, art galleries, souvenir shops, restaurants and other commercial ventures, and are scattered across southern Ontario. Those mills that were located here were removed long ago for 'progress', but other area locales, outlined in Mr. Colling's book, can be visited and enjoyed yet.

His book sells for \$10 with profits going to the town of La Salle to promote local tourism and business ventures.

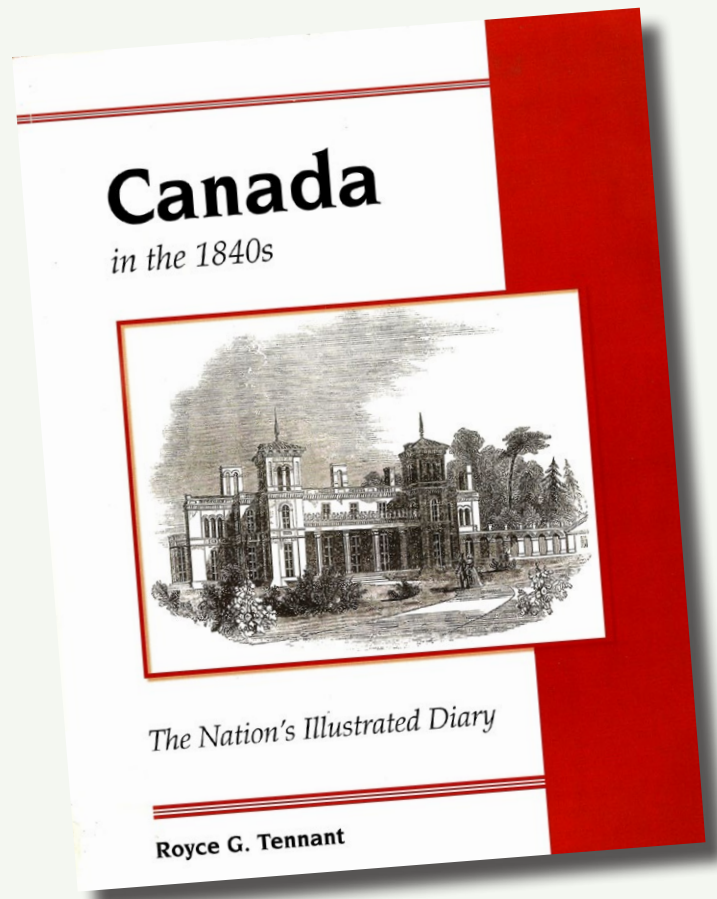


Canada in the 1840's
The Nation's Illustrated Diary
- by Royce G. Tennant

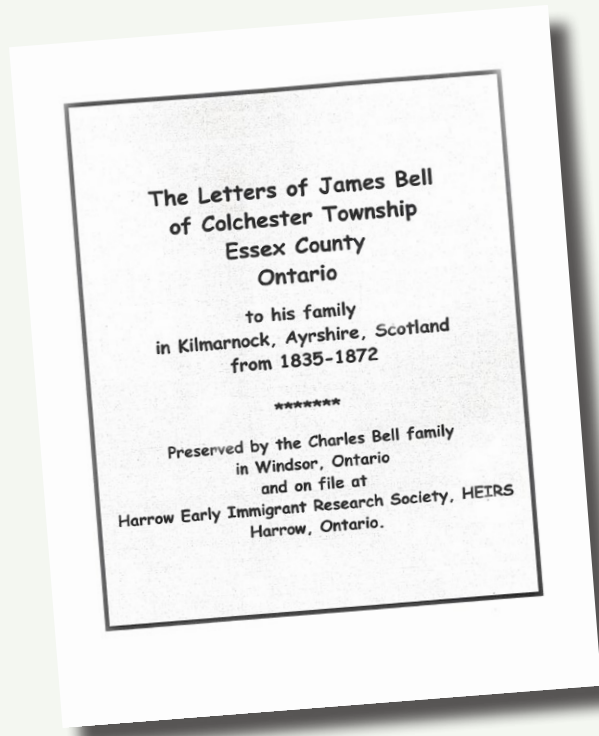
This paper-cover book of 201 pages is in a large 8.5 by 11 inch format, with many black and white illustrations and sketches. It is described (quite accurately) as an overview of our developing nation, and takes the form of newspaper accounts of shipping, fashion, politics, natural disasters, exploration of the west and various other events of the time which we would today call "general interest stories".

In the decade following the Rebellion of 1837, as government calmed the political storm and introduced reforms to improve government relations with the general populace, our Canada began to take shape.

This collection of writings forms a snapshot of a decade. It is easy to read, with short interesting stories presented in scrapbook style, as though someone had clipped and pasted each into an album. An enjoyable & informative read.



*Available for loan from
the HEIRS Lending Library.*



The Letters of James Bell
from 1835 to 1872

A coil-bound paperback, about 8.5 by 11 inches, follows the Bell family of Colchester through the years indicated, and into the very early 1900s as well. It gives insight into the life and times of a local family, in a large print, easy-to-read book with many photos of both people and structures. It includes a very good index to its contents.

Those interested in local family history and genealogy will want to consider adding this book to their collection, at only \$10 per copy.

Available for sale from HEIRS.



INDOOR YARD SALE

ANNUAL FUND RAISING YARD SALE MUSEUM

145 DIVISION STREET SOUTH, KINGSVILLE
adjacent to Royal Canadian Legion Br. 188

11 days - from FRIDAY MAY 11th.....
.....to MONDAY MAY 21st, 2012
9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*plus recycle depot for all your
unwanted electronic equipment*

*including computers, computer peripherals,
monitors, televisions, printing devices,
scanners, typewriters, cellular phones,
telephones, answering machines, audio and
video players, recorders, cameras, radios,
receivers, turntables and speakers.*



to benefit Computers for Kids and the Museum
for information ~ call Katherine or Wayne Gunning at 519-839-4731



From the HEIRS mailbag...

We continue to gain new members as our group becomes better-known. Don't forget to tell YOUR family members about who we are and what we do.

Scott (smassen@premiercorp.ca) is looking for information on the old British Methodist Episcopal Church on King Street East and Walnut Street South, plus the former Harrow Public School. He wants to know if they were demolished.... or perhaps they were destroyed by fire. If anyone knows, please respond to the email address above, or contact HEIRS. The two buildings were apparently eliminated during the 1940s.

Mark Warren, author of the recently featured book, "Anderdon", also requests information. He is interested in Alvin Fox, born in Gosfield Twp. in 1846. Alvin married Mary Adsit, and they had 2 children Stuart Alva and Libby May. They lived in Deadwood, South Dakota and are buried in Ohio. Alvin was the son of George T. Fox (1822-1908) and Sarah Jane Mills (1826-1905). Are there any photos of Alvin or George T.? Did either serve at any point in the military? Please contact Mark at mjwarren@eastlink.ca or through HEIRS.

Member Katie Gamble requests info on Henry Brown and his wife Mary Montgomery. Both were from Leeds but are buried in Leamington (with the stones face down?) Katie would appreciate learning more about these 2 ancestors. Contact her at kgamble@techsavvy.com or, as usual, through HEIRS.

A question was asked of HEIRS and we have no answer. Can you help?

Exactly when and how did the settlement of HOPETOWN become MUNGERS' CORNERS and then again change to HARROW?

Please let us know if you can solve this one for us.

On Saturday, May 4, the J.R. Park Homestead offers a basket weaving class for kids. Suitable for ages 12 and up, this program provides an opportunity to make a paper treasure box with lid. Cost is \$35 for all materials and instruction.

On Sunday, June 9, adults are invited to make a "grab and go" basket with a wooden handle/divider. Cost for this is \$50 all inclusive.

Both of these offerings run from 9 AM - 4PM (approx.). You are reminded to bring a lunch. Numbers are limited; advance registration required. Contact onlineregistrations.ca/jrph or call 519-738-2029.

Sunday, May 5, is the date for the Homestead's annual yard sale. Call 519-732-2029 to donate, **NO CLOTHING ITEMS PLEASE**. Unsold items will be donated to the Kingsville Historical Park for its sale, or to the Full Circle Thrift Shop in Harrow.

SOUTHERN ONTARIO MILITARY MUSTER



**“UNLOCK THE PAST -
ESSEX COUNTY
REMEMBERS THE WAR
YEARS”
PROJECT**

THE SOMM WANTS YOU!

We are looking for photographs, military items, documents, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, advertising, ration cards, patterns, clothing or anything else from the World War II era (1939-1945) or World War I era (1914-1918).

Are there things hidden away in an attic, in a closet, in a hope chest, in a sewing drawer or packed away in a drawer?

Are you or do you know someone who kept everything from the past? Perhaps a family member or friend.

Have you inherited items and don't know what to do with them?

If you answered “YES” to any of the above, then please contact us before you begin your spring cleaning.

We would like to document the role that the Windsor and Essex County communities played in the War Effort. We are especially interested in the industries that operated then. Who were they? Where were they located? What did they make?

Does anyone have pictures of the employees, factories or businesses?

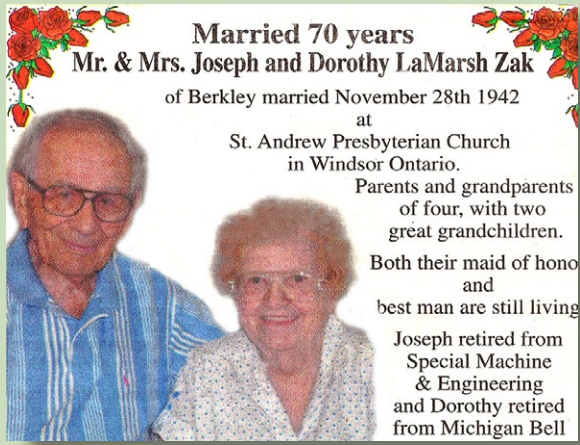
Does anyone have a picture of the St. Luke Barracks in Windsor?

We would like to see items whether they be military, industrial or household. We would document and scan images with permission, expanding our “DID YOU KNOW?” series to a monthly column in our newsletter.

Bigger plans are in the future Stay tuned.

Thank you.

Please direct your emails to any of the following:	Subject line - “Unlock the Past”
Gunilla Dittman - Treasurer/Project Co-Ordinator	gunilla_somm@gmail.com
Linda Iler - Secretary	linda.iler.somm@gmail.com
Website - http://militarymuster.ca	email : somm.militarymuster@gmail.com



Married 70 years
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph and Dorothy LaMarsh Zak

of Berkley married November 28th 1942
at
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
in Windsor Ontario.

Parents and grandparents
of four, with two
great grandchildren.

Both their maid of hono
and
best man are still living

Joseph retired from
Special Machine
& Engineering
and Dorothy retired
from Michigan Bell

Long time **HEIRS**
members celebrate 70th
wedding anniversary.
Congratulations from your fellow
HEIRS Directors & members.

The Amherstburg Echo.

The Echo No. 18

AMHERSTBURG, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1904

Weekly No. 2474

100 ACRES FOR SALE.

To sell various tracts of land, some 100 acres, in Amherstburg, at price of cash, and with buildings. For further particulars and prices, see

FALLS BROS., Agts.
Amherstburg.

LIME FOR SALE
IN
CARLOAD

THE SOVEREIGN BANK OF CANADA.

HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO, ONT.

Branches in all the principal cities of Canada and the United States.

Capital paid up, \$1,000,000. Reserve fund, \$1,000,000.

Assets, \$10,000,000. Deposits, \$10,000,000.

SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT.

Branches in all the principal cities of Canada and the United States.

HARROW BRANCH. AMHERSTBURG BRANCH.

C. A. McNICOLL, Manager. M. E. LEWIS, Manager.

Amherstburg Echo Obituary

(Nov. 24, 1874- October 25, 2012)

It was with much sadness that we received the announcement of the passing of our beloved Amherstburg Echo less than a month before its 138th birthday.

Predeceased by numerous weeklies, excellence in journalism, ethics and integrity, the Echo is survived and sadly missed by countless former dedicated co-workers, loyal readers and friends.

Gone but never to be forgotten, the Echo from its first issue on November 24, 1874 to October 25, 2012 has been preserved through modern technology and is available for future generations and researchers to peruse at the Marsh Historical Collection, 235 Dalhousie Street (upstairs), Amherstburg, Ontario.

-written by Eleanor Warren,
used by permission of the Marsh Collection.

NOTE:

Issues of the Amherstburg Echo, beginning in 1874, are also available on microfilm at the HEIRS research library in Harrow.

BURK BROS.

THE
POPULAR
TRADING
HOUSE.

3

Special

May 2nd

Strawberries and small fruits wintered well; plums and peaches are in full bloom; tomatoes and tobacco plants are coming fine.

The electrification and operation of the P.M. Railway passenger service as a radial road by the Hydro-Electric Commission would be a great boon to Harrow and vicinity. It is up to us to let the “powers that be” know that we favour such a proposition.

In a Crop Bulletin issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, a Colchester South correspondent says:” The labour situation is as acute as ever, and men are asking all the way from \$30 to \$40 a month, and \$2.50 a day. With prices of land and labour climbing to higher levels year by year, the best seed of the largest yielding varieties are required in order to make ends meet. Last year was a bad one for smut in oats, and this year, many farmers are taking interest in the formalin treatment.”

May 7th

We note the passing of Mary Jane Agla, nee Baldwin, daughter of Russel Baldwin, age 79. She has 3 brothers living- Rev. Amos Baldwin, of Arkona, E. W. Baldwin of Saginaw, and J. A. Baldwin of Leamington.

She married Mr. Agla in 1856, and there were 11 children, one dying in infancy. The surviving children are: Ezra, Leonard of Applegate, MI., Michael and Mrs. Warren Halstead, deceased, Amelia,, Mrs James Ford, Melinda, Mrs. Alf Thompon, Mina, Mrs. Charles Larrabee, of Colchester South, Dora, Mrs. Lou Ford, of Harrow, Arthur, of Harrow, and Ira of Arner. Martin Agla died in December of 1909.

May 9th

The creamery opens next Monday; prospects are bright.

The newest chauffeur is E. F. Darby, who has bought a Ford machine; W. A. Clark of the Imperial Bank owns a Studebaker 25. There are now 15 machines in Harrow and as many in the township.

Died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. W. M. Smith, Coldwater, MI., of cancer, age 82, John Alexander Halstead. He was the son of Matthew Halstead and Mary Askins, one of 12 children. Those who remain are: Mary Ann, Mrs. John Murray, Harriet, Mrs. Ebenezer Wright, James, Lucinda, Mrs. John Larrabee, and W. Jackson. Mrs. Halstead died in March.

Harrow has too much farmland within its boundaries! People who hold land of this kind are impeding progress. Sell at a reasonable figure, and get the property subdivided and sold off to those who would make a home here. The population would almost double in ten years.

May 16th

Mrs. Elizabeth Pollard wrote a letter about the removal of all trees from farm farmland, making a treeless plain, especially at Marshfield. “Not a tree is left under which man or beast may take shelter.” They are “mown down and burned like noxious weeds.”

May 23rd

A bee demonstration is to be held at the apiary of E. F. Darby. The Inspector of Apiaries will take charge of the proceedings, assisted by successful local beekeepers.

Maggie Iler, Mrs. Eli Wright, died in Toronto. Daughter of Sheriff John Coatsworth Iler, she moved to Sandwich about 15 years ago when Eli was Deputy Sheriff. She has 2 sisters, Mrs. Atkinson Wigle of Sandwich, and Mrs. Albert Rumball of Guelph.

Hours of Operation: September to June (excluding December)

Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM to 3PM / Wednesday: 9AM to 12 Noon

Please call for appointments for other times.

Memberships Due: May 2013 to April 2014: \$20 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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