

Vol. 7- September 2017

HEIRS

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society

newsletter



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Community Centre (Arena Bldg.)



Next meeting...

Penny Postcards

Newsletter News!

Welcome to the September newsletter

Technically summer has not gone just yet, so let's not push for the Autumn season.

Although, it IS a beautiful time of year. The Fall offers the changing leaves, & the seasonal harvests of fruits & vegetables providing for a number of glorious day trips for young & old alike.

We hope you will enjoy the remainder of the summer of 2017, and get ready for perhaps the best 2 months of the year that will soon follow. Add to your list of "gonna do's" perhaps, is our September meeting. As you will read below, there are many interesting things to see and discuss in this upcoming meeting.

See you there?

Next Meeting

When: Thursday, September 28, 1:30 PM

Where: Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Meeting Room

HEIRS opens our Fall season with a new topic for September.

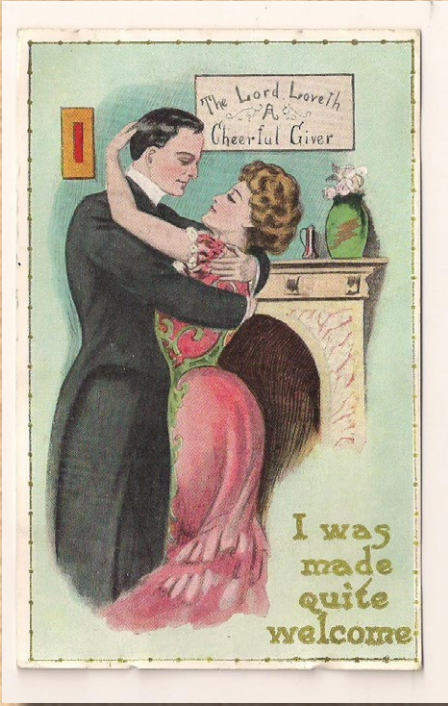
Director Ted Steele will be speaking about the popularity of postcards in the early years of the 1900s, when a one cent stamp and a bare bones address would get your message to its destination.

This presentation will include examples of postcards of various types, some showing "far away places", others of a humourous vein, and still others which show holiday themes or people in various activities. Please enjoy a sneak preview of some of these postcards on the following page.

Those most special are the romantic ones, which range from Valentines between friends to almost Victorian romantic - to some individuals they were rather racy for the time.

Included will be a love story which unfolded through a long series of postcards which grew from a simple greeting to longer and more personal messages and eventually blossomed into a long happy marriage.

You will be amazed at the creativity and the artwork that is shown in these simple "penny postcards".



4 Can you help?

An Orphan Looking For A Home

As we have often stated, HEIRS is not, and cannot be, a museum.

We simply do not have the space to store objects, even those of age and interest. We try to find them a good home, where they will be appreciated and kept safe. Such is the case with the book described below (even though we did feature it some time ago in our newsletter). If we again get no response, we will look further afield for a place to donate it.

*The book is an old Bible, measuring 11 inches by 12 inches, and 5 inches thick. It offers maps of the Holy Land, various scholarly essays and interpretations of Bible verse, and more. **It is a scholarly edition, and even includes a dictionary of Bible terms with pictures where applicable, and is laid out with large print in easy to read form.** The book was printed by McDermid and Logan, of London, Ontario, and seems to be undated.*

In the middle, we find pages where family information is entered. The first such page tells of the marriage in 1882 of Frederick William White and Julia Lee (she from Ladywood, Birmingham). It took place in St. John Church. I am told the original name of the Anglican Church in Kingsville was St. John's. Could this be the location? The witnesses were Isaac and Sarah Ann Nash, and Robert Banford.

The next page is somewhat hard to decipher, but is the marriage record of Julia Alice White and Henry (Bondy?) in June of 1906. Also Mary Ann White and (?) Stephens married in 1904.



Then follow pages giving the birth dates of the Whites and 9 children. The next page gives the year for each child's death from 1938 to 1980, and seems to indicate that the last survivor was Ellis Edward White, who was born in 1903.

Someone had entered the death date for Maude, which was 1980.

The book is in good shape on its interior, although the cover has to be handled with care. HEIRS would like a family member to claim it, but we will only keep it in our library for a few more months before taking action.

If you might have a claim or an interest in it, please let us know at 519-738-3700 or at the Research Centre.

Looking Back at the Summer of Seventeen 2017 that is...

HEIRS was fortunate to have had 2 summer students to work at the research centre and keep our facility available, running from 9 AM to 4 PM weekdays through July and August.

Sandra Smelser and Anne Storey have done a great job in catching us up on backlogged jobs, from scanning MANY photos, to organizing our computer files to filing in the proper locations a mound of material that had collected.

As well they assisted those folks who stopped in to do research, or who requested help by phone and email. They also helped us maintain a presence at the "Explore The Shore" weekend, when they were not 'required' to give of their time. They accomplished an amazing amount and did so with a smile each day, not always an easy task.

We thank you ladies- job well done!!

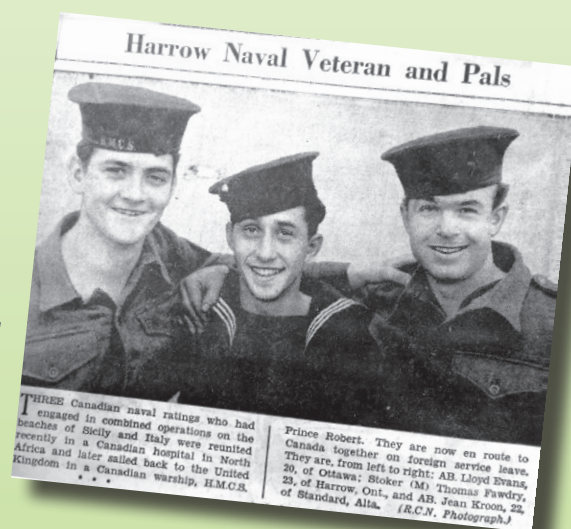


Help us build a comprehensive file of information & photos dealing with the two World Wars.

If you have any family information to contribute, we would like the opportunity to copy it for our records.

Let's gather as much as possible on record for research before it disappears forever.

We are not asking for donations, merely the chance to duplicate materials and so preserve their contents. Those in our families who served and sacrificed deserve to have their stories remembered, and those researching in the future will be grateful to have the materials available to them.



6 Upcoming Events

September brings the busy Fall events; we hope you can enjoy some of them, according to your own interests.

There are always things to do and see, many of them are free or at a minimal cost. Take advantage of the sunny days and warm temperatures, and stay active!

As always, HEIRS meets on the 4th Thursday of the month, at 1:30 PM.

Sunday PMs....

The blockhouse on Bois Blanc Island continues to welcome visitors on Sunday afternoons from 1 to 4 PM. Curator Bill Brundage reports that the numbers of interested visitors continue to rise as word gets out about what a jewel we have so close to home.

He has added an 1850-style, wood burning stove (non-operational), bunk beds of original style the soldiers would have used, and the upper walls are whitewashed to add to the authenticity.

Donations are welcomed but there is no charge other than the ferry from Amherstburg to the Island. Bill is there Sundays until October 1st, but can arrange group visits on other days. Contact him at 519-736-2330, or contact me (Ted Steele) at 519-733-3456 or email to historynut@outlook.com.

September 8th

The Kent branch of the OGS (Ontario Genealogical Society) meets on Friday, Sept. 8 at 7 PM in the Chatham Cultural Centre, 75 William Street North, in Chatham. Diana Fulton of the OGS British Home Child Special Interest Group will discuss the BHC movement, which brought thousands of children from Europe to Canada in the early 19th century.

This meeting is jointly sponsored by the Kent branch OGS, the Kent Historical Society & the Chatham-Kent Museum.

It is free to all interested, & is designed to honour & remember these displaced children.

September 16th

On Saturday, Sept. 16th, the Bicentennial Branch of the United Empire Loyalists (our own Essex-Windsor branch) holds its annual luncheon meeting in Kingsville. All interested in local history are invited to attend, and for \$20, to enjoy a great meal and guest Speaker Jennifer DeBruin. See information included beside this column.

The Bicentennial Branch

of

The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

Is having its Annual September Luncheon Meeting

WHEN – on Saturday September 16th, 2017

WHERE – Church of the Epiphany Church Hall

ADDRESS – 96 Main Street West, Kingsville, Ontario

TIME – 12:00 Noon Sharp

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND !!

Anyone with deep roots in Essex County
with a possible interest in the Loyalists of Canada and Essex County
and their History
is more than welcome to attend !!

**Cost is \$20.00 per person (pay at door) for a great lunch -
with Chicken cacciatore, parsley potatoes, green beans,
Spanish tomato salad, tossed green salad, homemade
dinner rolls, tomato juice appetizer, dessert, tea and coffee**

**Guest Speaker – Historical Fiction Author – Jennifer DeBruin
Presenting “In Search of Home”**

For reservations, please R.S.V.P. by September 9th, 2017

By email to info.bicentennial@uelac.org

Leaving Your Name, Telephone Number,

Number of Guests and any food allergies

Or call (519) 995-3529 (Leave Message)

We welcome anyone interested, and look forward to seeing you !!



August 17

The creamery is running full blast. More cream than usual; should be a record breaker.

August 31

F. H. Ferriss, who has conducted one of the most enterprising grocery and table supply houses in South Essex for the past 5 years in the Clark block, has again leased the block for another 5 year term.

September 9

Another important industry will soon be added to those of the village- that is, canning sweet corn. Quality Cannery's building is in the last stages of completion, and early next week they hope to have the machinery in operation. Important changes and additions have been made. It will employ between 25 and 30 hands, and the manager is advertising in this issue for that many women to assist them.

The 7 cutters and 7 huskers are all placed.

These will take care of the corn as fast as it comes in, shooting it from there to the two filters, 2 mixers, 2 silkers which take care of the food in a sanitary and perfect way. The cans are closed on 2 sanitary closing machines, at the rate of one per second.

These are the only machines of their class in Canada, and are certainly a complex piece of mechanism. The retort room provides for 6 loads at a time, they are handled by a power hoist then the product goes to a cooling room and is boxed in the large store rooms. When the factory gets under operation, it will be an interesting place to visit. They not only expect to can the season's crop of sweet corn, but also to put up a large pack of pumpkins and apples, and later on will can pork and beans during the winter.

September 14

An extreme shortage of coal. Roland Ferriss made a trip to Buffalo last week, and it is bearing fruit. One car of coal has arrived, and others may soon be expected.

October 1st

On Saturday, the J. R. Park Homestead along Lake Erie, again hosts their very popular Harvest and Horses Festival. Offering lots to see and do, the Homestead is a perfect spot on a sunny Fall afternoon. See the poster below for more details.



Essex Region Conservation
the place for life



*A celebration of autumn's bounty
at the John R. Park Homestead*

Harvest & Horses Festival

Sunday, October 1, Noon to 4pm
\$6/adult, \$4/child, \$20 family maximum

- Take a ring-side seat at 1:30pm for the amazing Parade of Breeds featuring horses of all shapes and sizes
- Harvest-themed family photo booth provided by Henry's Windsor
- Get hands-on with harvest activities: cider pressing, sausage stuffing, corn husk crafts and more

Please no dogs at this event.
Service dogs always welcome.

For more info:

519-738-2029 or jrph@erca.org
erca.org/jrph

MEDIA SPONSOR



HEIRS needs your input...

We are compiling a list of about 225 interesting facts about Colchester Township – things that make our area special.

The entire compilation will be used in the upcoming celebrations to mark the 225th anniversary of the settling of Colchester Township, as part of marking the 150th birthday of Canada.

A building, an individual or an event... almost any nuggets of interesting details are appreciated. Relay the info verbally to any director of HEIRS at a meeting, by email to hheritage@bellnet.com or to historynut@outlook.com (Ted Steele), or even by an old-fashioned telephone call.

“History As It Used to Was”

- by Ted Steele, HEIRS Director

The Early Families of Essex County

As far back as the 1650s, this part of Canada was being explored by the first French map-makers & fur traders. The European fashion of the time created a huge demand for furs, & voyageurs went out into the wild. By 1700, there were small settlements begun by some of these French who intermarried with Indian women & established relationships with local native groups. By the time England defeated France for control of Canada, in 1763, along the Detroit River was Petit Cote, the origin of Windsor. Local French families among these early settlers include familiar names like Bezaire, Beneteau, Langlois & others who remained. The American revolution saw many flee the conflict & come to Fort Detroit for British protection, petitioning the King for land in this area. Others were brought here as prisoners of war, captured by various Indian groups & traded for weapons & everyday items they could not otherwise get.

At Ruddles Fort in Kentucky, a large group was captured & eventually brought here & traded. They served as tenant farmers on Hog Island in the Detroit River, also waiting for land grants. Still others were loyal to the British cause & had to leave when the war was over. Some went to England or Bermuda or other parts of the Empire, but many came here. By 1790, a large group of those who had remained loyal needed to be dealt with. Alexander McKee of the Indian department called all the local First Nations leaders he could find to meet at what is now Blenheim in Kent County. He arranged a deal whereby the waterfront land along Lake Erie became British crown land, in exchange for a quantity of knives, guns, blankets & other goods for each tribe signing the treaty.

The treaty with the totems of many of the chiefs is still in existence today.

This gave the British land, which could be given to those who had remained loyal to the Crown during the Revolution. Agents of the Crown then met with individual applicants who requested land for being “loyal to the British Empire”; those

who served militarily or who suffered losses because of their loyalty were entitled to 200 acres & enough farm implements to begin again. In addition, each son would receive 200 acres when he reached 18 years, & which daughters also received when they married. This also gave them the right to add after their names, the letters “U. E.”, indicating Unity of the Empire.

The narrowest part of the Detroit River was the most likely spot for future American attacks, so these land grants were given to military men as a line of first defence. Thus, the Fort Malden & Amherstburg areas were populated by names like Simon Girty, Alexander McKee, Matthew Elliott, William Caldwell, Alexander Bird, & Francois Baby. The land further from the river was given to farmers, so we find Harrow & Kingsville settlers with names like Ulch (later becoming Alcock), Munger, Tofflemire, Kratz (which anglicized into Scratch), Ferriss & Snider. In the French style, each land grant had access to the Detroit River or Lake Erie, which was truly the superhighway of the time. Homes then had to be hacked out of the forest, extremely dense and often swampy.

Each man depended on his neighbour for assistance on big jobs, as well as companionship, defence if attacked, & something of a social life. Children only knew their neighbours whose families were of similar political views & backgrounds, & dealt with the same daily issues. Marriages between neighbouring families were common & natural, cementing ties between these close-knit groups.

Proven Loyalists of Essex County include Jacob Arner, John Cornwall, Francois Drouillard, Joseph Ferriss, Philip Fox, Simon Girty, Rudolph Huffman, Benjamin Knapp, Leonard Kratz, John McLean, Alexander McCormick, John Charles Munger, Abraham Pastorius, John Snider, John Stockwell, Martin Tofflemire, Henry Wright, Elisha Wilcox (junior & senior) and John Wendel Wigle; more names are on the list but these are some of the most familiar.

Could you have any of these names in your own background? HEIRS can help you find out if you have Loyalist roots.

Our October newsletter will outline some of the family members of John McLean, and indicate the other local families that have married into the McLean family tree.

HEIRS Resource Centre

September to June (excluding December)

Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM - 3PM

Wednesday or for other appts. Call to confirm.

Memberships

\$25 CDN/US per person or couple: May 2017 to April 2018

Send cheque to: HEIRS PO Box 53, Harrow ON Canada N0R 1G0

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

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

HEIRS Newsletter

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).
Receive full colour newsletters by email & save HEIRS the printing & mailing costs of B&W copies by regular post. Simply provide your email address to our office.



Kudos... to Greg Harrison at The Computer Centre in Harrow who provides HEIRS ongoing support for *all things technical* to help keep our office running smoothly.



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