



# HEIRS

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society

newsletter

MAY • MAI						
SUNDAY DIMANCHE	MONDAY LUNDI	TUESDAY MARDI	WEDNESDAY MERCREDI	THURSDAY JEUDI	FRIDAY VENDREDI	SATURDAY SAMEDI
APRIL AVRIL 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	JUNE JUIN 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30				1 Social Distance!	2 Ditto
3 Ditto	4 Ditto	5 Ditto	6 Ditto	7 Ditto	8 Ditto	9 Ditto
10 Ditto Mother's Day Fête des Mères	11 Ditto	12 Ditto	13 Ditto	14 Ditto	15 Ditto	16 Ditto
17 Ditto	18 Ditto Victoria Day Fête de la Reine National Patriots' Day Journée nationale des patriotes (QC-CAN)	19 Ditto	20 Ditto	21 Ditto	22 Ditto	23 Ditto
24 Ditto	25 Ditto	26 Ditto	27 Ditto	28 Ditto	29 Ditto	30 Ditto

Next meeting...  
Check the calendar for details!

## Welcome to the May 2020 newsletter.

### Perseverance pays off...

*My original venture into “family history” started when I wanted to learn about my father’s early life. He was ‘elderly’ when I was born, & with me being only 12 when he passed away, I never got to directly ask him about his own life as a boy, young man & how he got to this point in his life. Sure, I heard bits & pieces of stories from time to time, all recounted with personal biases, but in 1985 I set out in earnest to learn more, myself.*

*Over the past 35 years I’ve pieced together some of his story, but not the dot-to-dot connection I desired to make it cohesive. And then this month, I discovered newspaper articles from the 1920s and 1930s that brought even more clarity.*

*In brief, one article covered how he physically wrestled with the husband of a lady who tried to pass a bad cheque in his Ford City pharmacy. Unable to hold him until the police arrived, nevertheless they were later caught. In another article, in my Dad’s own driveway, a young thug pointed a handgun to his chest, screamed “put ‘em up” & demanded money. Dad thought otherwise, pushed the gun away and struggled until the would-be thief got scared and ran off.*

*Other articles indicated that my Dad, was also a victim of a nervous breakdown. The pressures of running 3 drug stores during a rapidly declining 1920s economy, took its toll. Leaving one morning for his own store, he never arrived & went missing for over a week, despite Border Cities & Detroit police looking in the wharfs, abandoned warehouses & on the riverbanks for him. He was found 500 miles away in Indiana, in need of help - which he got.*

**This is why perseverance pays off.** *Not mine, in finding these stories – but his perseverance! Born into a farming family, he contracted polio at 10, leaving him mostly paralyzed on one side. He relearned how to walk by pushing a chair around his kitchen over several years. In spite of his disability & knowing he couldn’t farm as his ancestors & immediate family did, he attended the University of Toronto & became a Druggist. That’s when his perseverance grew– he wasn’t going to be cheated by people passing bad cheques, he wasn’t going to be robbed of his hard earned money, even at gunpoint & basically with one good arm. And he didn’t let his mental crisis slow him down either. Soon after he became a business partner in the burgeoning market for radios, and later took on responsibility for 3 kids from my Mom’s former marriage, and they added 3 more kids of their own. **Perseverance.***

**So now, when confronted with our own life challenges, including this COVID-19 crisis, we must turn to our own perseverance to get through it. Call it fortitude, doggedness, pig-headedness, or just moxy - just keep on keeping on.**

**Perseverance pays off!**

Stay safe. Keep your distance. Wash your hands. - Rick McCormick

***As I write these words, April approaches its end and a few details are beginning to sort themselves out. We at HEIRS can start to see our next few months with some clarity. This article is written to bring our members and fans everywhere up to date on what will soon be unfolding.***

*As the COVID-19 crisis began, we were quite suddenly locked out of our resource centre with no time to gather membership lists or any other items. At first, we had no timeline for access, but held out hope that we might only lose our March meeting.*

*We quickly learned that April was also to be wiped off the calendar. By mid-April we learned that the Harrow Arena would not open before the end of June. So, our year-end activities are also denied. Our hopes to hire summer students and keep the facility open through July and August appear to be highly unlikely.*

***Now for some things that we can control.*** *The directors agreed that our newsletters should still be sent out, both to keep members up-to-date and to provide some interesting history & genealogy reading material.*

*Since we have no access to our members' email or snail-mail addresses even, we will send the newsletter file(s) to various groups around the county, such as the OGS, and ask*

*if they will send them along to their members or anyone else who might be interested. I will use personal contacts as well, in an effort to circulate the newsletters & to keep the public aware that HEIRS is still functioning, as best we can.*

*With the wonderful help of the Essex branch of the OGS through Cindy Robichaud, we were able to include our combined March/April issue within their own member publication recently.*

***A special summer issue, (assuming we have some level of normalcy by then) will be created. As I often say, "Things are the way they are".***

*The May meeting to elect directors & to deal with any retiring directors, is bumped to September, unless things change considerably. We will keep our readers posted as we can.*

*In the meantime, please contact HEIRS through my email ([historynut@outlook.com](mailto:historynut@outlook.com)). Members can help us repopulate our list until we're reopened by just emailing me. Check our newsletter's back page for more HEIRS contacts.*

***Look for our newsletters to return the 1st week of each month following this shutdown.***

***We'll strive to keep everyone involved & interested in HEIRS as we head into our 50th year, in January 2021.***

***\* Effective May 1st, 2020 \****

***annual membership fees are now \$30.<sup>00</sup>***

*Increased insurance, telephone & internet costs are the culprits.*

***Thank you to all members who renewed early!***

***And thanks for your continued support of HEIRS!***

# 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.

LIME FOR SALE  
IN  
CARLOAD LOTS.

## 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, Vereker, 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. HILLIS, Vereker.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL.  
Miss Wm. Hanson's condition kept about the same.  
Don't talk to any "dudes" who may here, inquired by a

### MALDEN.

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

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

Win. Golden is suffering from being attacked of influenza.

Mrs. Alice McLean, of Windsor, is on her way to visit her mother, Mrs. Wilson, who is recovering from an illness.

## 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. S. Davis for defendant. This 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 in a dangerous state of disrepair at the time the plaintiff fell thereon. The learned Judge refused to grant the appeal and the text of his decision is as below:

## ANDERDON COUNCIL.

Saturday, Feb. 27th.

Council met in regular session with all members present. Moved by Messrs. Groulx and Cole, that the minutes just read be adopted.—Carried. Moved by Messrs. Vollans and Cole, that Fred Pagano get a warrant for \$4 groceries furnished to the Verger.—Carried.

Moved by Messrs. Cole and Antone Lenoir get a clearing ice from 60 and Wilbert Sutte bridge on south of

Moved by Messrs. Groulx and Wilbert Sutte refund of dog tax—

Messrs. Cole and Antone Lenoir get a we sheep killed by un

Moved by Messrs. Groulx and Wilbert Sutte that Harold Wia \$5, for two occ

Willis Howard statute labour, applied for a side line in or for the water property, and Cole, and Groulx, and Lenoir, and Sutte, and Vollans, and

## BURK BROS.



### April 9

Lennox Thompson, manager of the Imperial Bank, Niagara Falls, and friend Thomas Badges spent Easter with the former's parents, Mr and Mrs Alfred Thompson of Windsor.

### April 16

Ratepayers from SS 11 appeared before council and asked council to pass a by-law abolishing SS 11, and divide lands of the section among SS 4, SS 9 and SS 14. Council will prepare the by-law.

### April 30

School trustees have offered to pay half the cost to make Harrow a centre for high school examinations. Teachers & students were unanimous and county inspectors have agreed, but the question of cost caused the board to hesitate. The compromise was arranged by which pupils and board each pay half.

Mrs. Allan J Taylor died suddenly with an acute hemorrhage, age 34. Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Floran Hubbel of Harrow. Besides her husband,

she is survived by 2 daughters, Madeline and Violet. Also the following brothers and sisters: Gordon of Detroit, Georgia (Mrs Angus Brush of Colch S.), Nellie (Mrs. Victor L'Heureux of Port City, Mich.), Gertrude of Indianapolis, and John of Peace River, Alberta.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wright of Oxley celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary, Married in Kingsville, they spent their married lives in Colchester South, & have enjoyed the goodwill & respect of the community. Mr Wright was born on the Wright Homestead, his family being one of the most prominent in South Essex. Son of Phillip S. Wright & Mary Quick. Family now living- Ebenezer, Cornelius, William G, Joseph S, Thomas L, Angus F & Gordon P. Only death was Mrs. Judson Patton of Malden. Mr Wright was at home until 21 years old, when he bought his present farm of 150 acres from the late David Howie & Robert Heaton. On April 27, 1870, he married Louisa F. Lockhart, daughter of Jeremiah Lockhart of Malden. To them were born Carrie May (Mrs Ernest A Brown, postmaster at Kingsville), Ada Marion (Mrs. Martin Malott of Kingsville), Mabel Delilah (Mrs Leroy Allen of Gos S), and

Fred T., who lives at home. Sisters of Louisa living are Mrs. Joseph S Wright of Colch. S., and Mrs. Colin Wright of Windsor.

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### May 7

Essex County Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Union-On-The-Lake, 3 miles from Kingsville, was burned to the ground. Staff and 46 patients were moved to safety. They intend to rebuild.

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### May 12

Pelee Island - Peter Groat, the last of several Indians who have lived on the island since its inhabitation passed away at Hotel Dieu last week.

Mr. Groat was always honest and upright in his dealings and left a host of friends behind. For the past 3 years he has been in very poor health but his friends had no idea that the end was so near.

G. E. Schroeder, English tobacco expert investigating tobacco districts of Ontario was seen in Colchester last week. He examined tobacco crops, took samples and will test to see if they compare favourably with American leaf in the hope that trade can be worked between Canada and Great Britain.

Growers must prepare the leaf as attractive packages, closely graded and put up in first class shape if they want to get the first class market and price.

Ebenezer Wright has in his possession a long-handled frying pan which is over 100 years old. It belonged to his mother's grandmother. It may even be older than that.

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### May 14

Mrs. Thomas Craig received a message announcing the death of her brother-in-law

Ed Karschner, of Toledo, who succumbed to an attack of bronchitis. Mr. Craig and brother George McLean attended the funeral, on Saturday. Mr. Karschner is survived by his widow, formerly Miss Julia McLean of this township.

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### May 21

Mrs. Renno has received her standard hotel license, the only one issued in this township. Harrow might well be proud of the boarding house of this class run so successfully that travellers from all over the province recommend it, both for its table and lodging. It is a decided asset to the district, and many larger centres are not so well served.

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### May 28

Branton and Buchanan partnership has been dissolved, Buchanan retaining the business. Branton has disposed of 5 lots on Munger Avenue to Mrs. Shaw and is leaving for the south. Buchanan is moving this week into the Pigeon house, and Mr. Firman will move to Kingsville.

Andrew Wright is appointed as High Constable, with salary of \$100 a year.

Council passed an ordinance forbidding shooting of fireworks except in Agricultural Park. Moved to meet the Twp. Council re: extension of Victoria Avenue to Sinasac Ave, & urge them to make Snake Lane legal width.

Unightly tie-posts are to be removed from main streets and set in alleys and side streets. Signs will be posted that horses be tied on the side streets and alleys hereafter.

## 6 Hidden Heroism

***I am aware that many of my topics in recent newsletters have been military in nature, and some people may be tiring of them.***

*Please keep in mind that this year marks 75 years since the D-Day landing and the liberation of Europe from Nazi tyranny, events most worthy of remembering & appreciating.*

*I have also wanted to make use of several themes involving women and their often unsung contributions to history, so this issue allows me to accomplish both of these.*

*In 1938, as the inevitability of another world war was becoming more obvious, a Canadian organization called the ATA was formed. This was the Air Transport Auxiliary; its purpose was to ferry both fighter and bomber aircraft to RAF bases. This group freed up male pilots to fly into combat and not force them to be part of the 'delivery chain'.*

*The ATA consisted of non-combatant pilots, men who did not qualify for active service, and women who wanted to make their contribution to the war effort. With little fanfare (and little recognition when the war was won), the ATA delivered the aircraft so that military pilots could use them in aerial warfare.*

*In all, some 130 types of aircraft were delivered, and by 1945 this involved 650 pilots representing 22 countries. During the war, 173 of these pilots & engineers were killed, mainly victims of poor weather & engine failure.*

***The women pilots were often called 'Spitfire Girls', but in reality, they flew many types of planes, including Hurricane fighters & Lancaster bombers.***

*I like to think I have some knowledge of wartime history, but this chapter was totally new to me. History is absolutely full of hidden stories of heroic deeds of women, about which little is rarely mentioned.*

***When I find one of these untold stories, I feel the need to share what I have learned & give credit where it is most definitely deserved.***

***In 2018, at her home on the Isle of Wight, the last 'Spitfire Girl', Mary Ellis passed away at the age of 101.***

***During WW2, she delivered 1,000 aircraft, 76 different types, including 400 Spitfires... her favourite plane.***

*A few weeks before she died, she was reunited with one of the Spitfires she had herself delivered.*

*It was a special plane, as she had hastily written in the cockpit, her maiden name - "Mary Wilkins" and "ATA".*

*As a young lady, she dreamed that maybe one of those fearless combat pilots might find her one day.*

***Although that did not happen, she was more than pleased to see 'her plane' once again.***



### History As It Used to Was...

- by Ted Steele, HEIRS Director

*Part two, of Codes and Ciphers trilogy is presented here for your enjoyment. I left off last issue with an introduction to the famed Enigma machine developed by the Germans during WW 2.*

*The early years of WW 2 saw Britain in desperate need of supplies & weaponry, which were being sent across from Canada & the USA using convoys of ships for protection.*

*The Nazi leaders realized that this lifeline was a vital link for Britain and determined that shortening the war could best be achieved by interrupting, and possibly eliminating this supply line.*

*To do so, they produced submarines (U-boats) in large numbers, and used the so-called 'wolfpacks' to hunt down and destroy Allied shipping. A convoy of 30 to 50 ships could not easily hide, and they had great difficulty in defending themselves from torpedo attacks.*

*With Enigma machines, Nazi U-boats could then communicate with one another as well as with Berlin headquarters. Now with definitive information, they launched accurate plans of attack, unseen & unsuspected... **until it was too late.***

*British cryptographers and code-breakers studied the messages being sent by Enigma machines, and they did make slight inroads into understanding them. But their complexity made it very difficult and very slow progress was being made.*



***The solution was decided upon... to capture one the machines, with its manuals & codebooks if possible.***

*The Dieppe Raid was an Allied assault on the German-occupied port of Dieppe, France on the August 19, 1942. Over 6,050 infantrymen, predominantly Canadian, were supported by The Calgary Regiment of the 1st Canadian Tank Brigade and a strong force of Royal Navy, plus smaller Royal Air Force landing contingents. The landing involved 5,000 Canadians, 1,000 British troops and 50 US Army Rangers.*

*Their objectives included seizing and holding a major port for a short period, both to prove that it was possible and to gather intelligence. Upon retreat, the Allies also wanted to destroy coastal defenses, port structures and all strategic buildings.*



The raid had the added objectives of boosting morale and demonstrating the firm commitment of the United Kingdom to open a western front in Europe.

**None of these overall objectives were met.** Only a single landing force achieved its specific objective. Within 10 hours of the first landings, the last Allied troops had been killed, evacuated or left behind to be captured by the Germans. Instead of a demonstration of resolve, the bloody fiasco showed the world that the Allies could not hope to invade France for a long time.

Of the 6,086 men who made it to shore, 3,623 were killed, wounded, or captured. The Royal Air Force failed to lure the German Luftwaffe into open battle, and the Allies lost 106 aircraft (with at least 32 to anti-aircraft fire or accidents). The Luftwaffe lost just 48. The Royal Navy lost 33 landing craft and one destroyer.



**We know that the British did manage to capture an Enigma machine.**

**Several stories as to how this may have happened exist.**

**I remain uncertain as to which one to believe.**

One version is that a submarine was captured with its machine intact, in spite of strict orders by the Nazi command to dispose of it overboard before capture.

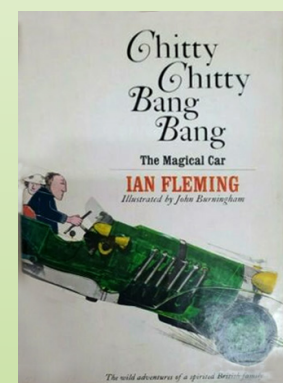
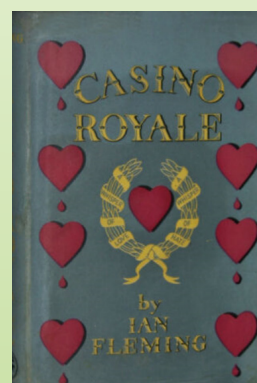
A more recent version involved the Dieppe raid, repelled with huge losses to Allied forces.

This version claims a commando raid, a few miles up the coast specifically targeted the location of a machine. This version claims the machine was in fact, the real target, with Dieppe's raid just a diversionary tactic.

With the machine in hand, it was a closely-guarded secret. If the Nazis knew one was captured, they would have changed their critical communication methods. In any case, Enigma was painstakingly studied and eventually its code was solved.

It then was necessary to use the information, but covertly, so not to tip off the Germans that the Allies understood the coded messages. If suddenly Nazi plans were anticipated or stopped outright, it would be obvious their Enigma machines had been compromised.

Among the war heroes were the British decode experts who should be more acknowledged for their lifesaving contributions. Among them, was Ian Fleming, who later created the iconic James Bond superspy character in 'Casino Royale' (his 1st book, written in 1953). Fleming was a naval intelligence officer in the war and Bond is said to have been inspired by a real life secret agent whose code name was 'White Rabbit'. The last book Fleming wrote was in 1964; the light-hearted book "Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang, The Magical Car". **Shown below are original covers of his 1st & last books.**



# 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](mailto:hheritage@bellnet.ca)

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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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