

Vol. 1- January 2017

HEIRS

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society

newsletter



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 Harrow & Colchester South
 Community Centre (Arena Bldg.)



Next meeting...

Special Canadians: "Famous & not so"

Newsletter News!

Welcome to the January 2017 newsletter

We once again turn the corner to a new year, new opportunities and new endeavours. In this issue we bring you our recap of the last 2016 meeting, as well a slew of great images from our Holiday Trolley Tour excursion to the Willistead Homestead.

For those who missed going this season, here's a visual incentive to head there next year.

Again, we welcome new members, thank those who renewed, and hope to see more of our folks at our monthly meetings and special events in 2017.

Stay warm.

Next Meeting

When: Thursday, January 26th, 1:30 PM

Where: Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Centre

The HEIRS meeting on January 26th will celebrate Canada's 150th birthday, as we look at what Canadians have accomplished during that time.

Director Ted Steele will be discussing some great Canadians who have not been given their rightful place in history. For a variety of reasons, they remain uncelebrated and unknown, with fame and fortune in most cases never coming their way.

We Canadians seem to have a reserved streak in us, which prevents us from being demanding, attention-seekers and self-promoters.

We will learn about Tom Longboat, Joe Shuster, Viola Desmond and pilots Alcock and Brown, to name just a few, who should be much more familiar to us than they are.

These and others are quiet heroes who deserve recognition for some very important accomplishments.

We are so much more than a nation of hockey players!

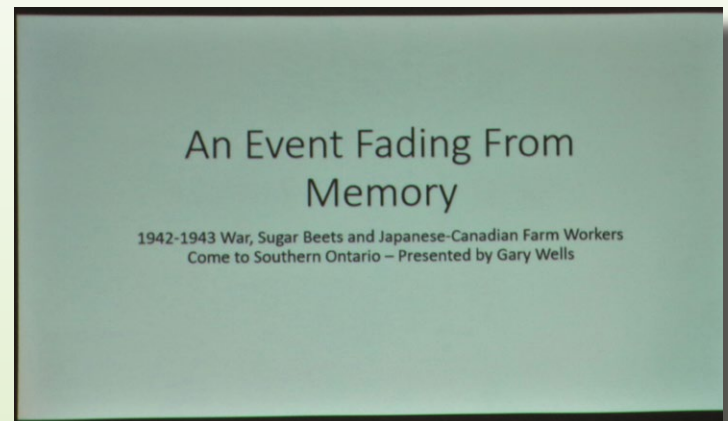


The last HEIRS meeting of 2016 continued our very personal & emotional reflection on the plight of Japanese -Canadians living in Canada during WW 2.



Our November speaker, Gary Wells, shared with us his findings about Japanese-Canadians who were sent to Ontario during WW 2 to work the farms, as part of their forced removal from British Columbia, for national security.

Gary became interested in this story, but found almost nothing in print to supply information. He embarked on his own research and did a wonderful job of gathering facts and pulling the story into shape.



His presentation informed HEIRS members why sugar beets were necessary in wartime, the amount of work these crops required, and how Japanese workers were sent to various camps in Ontario.

Surprisingly, local residents hardly remember them or the local camps built to house them, and government records barely indicate such a program existed. Gary explained why the government of the day did what it did, how local residents resisted the coming of the Japanese Canadians, and also how the local farmers grew to appreciate their hard work and overall co-operation.

Mr. Wells made the details clear, and we now have an accurate record of these events which deserves to be preserved as part of our history.



Photos: Courtesy of Shelby Wye / Harrow News

4 Willistead Trolley Tour



On Thursday, December 1st, HEIRS members and guests boarded the trolley named Desire, and went off on a Christmas holiday trip.

The first stop was at the Ciaciaro Club, where we enjoyed a buffet lunch featuring chicken, beef, pasta and salads, plus dessert goodies.

Then the trolley took us to Willistead Manor in old Walkerville. This beautiful old building was splendid in its Christmas decor, every room a tasteful reflection of what it would have been a century ago.



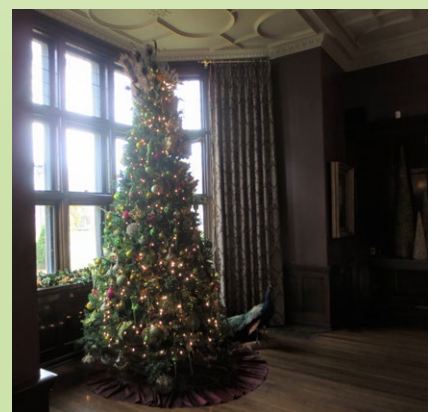
Willistead Trolley Tour 5



Built by E. Chandler Walker, son of Hiram, it gives an unparalleled glimpse into the lifestyle of the well-to-do in the 1920s.



As we passed from room to room, I was irresistibly reminded of a favourite board game from my childhood (just a few years ago), which my wife and I now enjoy with our grandchildren.



6 Willistead Trolley Tour



Clue, the classic Parker Brothers game in which you roll the die & move from room to room, to figure out who did the murder, with what weapon & in which room. We stood in the library, with just a few steps away from the billiard room. We visited the conservatory, the hall, the kitchen, & all the other rooms, just as the game board depicted them!



January 5th

Charles Herdman traded his blacksmith and woodworking shop and property to J. H. Clark of Kingsville, for the farm of 50 acres, Lot 16 of concession 2. Mr. Herdman will now rent the store from Mr. Clark, and will continue in charge for the present.

January 19th

Mr. Elam Beeman died, age 73, on his farm on the town line, middle portion of Lot 33. Second son of John Beeman and wife Sophia Morin. He married Emma Mickle 42 years ago. Survived by his widow and Ida (Mrs. Walter Livingstone), Mrs. George Bissell, and Mrs. Florin Hubbell. His brothers were Uriah, Sebra, Jud and John, all deceased. He cleared his own farm, and got it into an excellent state of cultivation. He was a sportsman, hunting, fishing and trapping. He was also a game warden.

Charles Clark elected Reeve; councillors Bondy, Barnet, Deslippe and McLean.

A beautiful new IOOF temple, to be dedicated on Feb. 12.

January 26

Lennox Thompson died, age 79. Born in Ireland, son of the late Thomas Thompson, J.P. came to Colchester in the early days. They settled on the Elliott farm, lakefront, now known as the Jacob McLean place, later moving to Maidstone. He married (1) Miss Martin, and had several children, now deceased. He married (2) Miss Mulligan of Essex. They had 2 children, Miss Eva, and Ivan. He had 2 sisters, Mrs. W. J. Halstead and Mrs. Margaret Rush of Fort Dodge, Iowa.

A severe coal shortage; and when a car comes in, it is rationed out in small portions.

E. F. Darby bought the Fox Block from Herman Klie.



From the HEIRS mailbag...



From Caren Coffell comes this message to HEIRS director Pauline Baldwin...

“Hello- I wanted to write and thank you again for all the time and assistance you gave to me in connecting me to my family history. The help and hard work you do really makes a real impact on our lives. My family was so excited to see all the facts and pictures you provided to me re: the Fox and DeLaurier families. Thanks again!”

From Richard McGee, of Bloomfield, Michigan, we received this note...

“Good evening- My sister died recently. Among her possessions was an 8mm movie reel, which I had digitized and uploaded to YouTube. I want to share it with HEIRS.

In the movie are my mother, sisters, brother, grandmother, grandfather and great grandmother.

The people in the movie are Annie Atkin, Kate Atkin, Arthur McGee, Owen McGee, Catherine Meagher, Patricia McGee, Cathie McGee and Larry McGee. The movie was taken at Art McGee’s farm, 6th concession and Middleside Road in 1942 or 1943.

Those interested in this family can view the movie using the link, “Art McGee family on farm in Amherstburg, Ontario”.

Free 7-Part Lecture Series Featuring Local Award Winning Author **CHRIS CARTER**

- OCTOBER 20: The Windsor You Did Not Know
- NOVEMBER 17: Essex County in the 1830s: The Rebellious Decade of Upper Canada
- DECEMBER 15: Windsor Rail Lands on the River
- JANUARY 19: The Building of a Village: Heritage Village
- FEBRUARY 16: Fur Trade in Essex County—North West Fur Trading Co.
- MARCH 16: Early Alcohol, Wine, Beer and Spirits
- APRIL 20: Designated Historic Sites in Essex County
- MAY 16—Tentative: Tour of Designated Historic Sites in Essex County

1:00 pm—1:45 pm

BREAK
(coffee/tea will be available for purchase)

2:00PM—3:00PM

Books by Chris Carter will be available for purchase at each Session.

A portion of all profits will go to the Education Program here at Heritage Village



Call today to register for one or all of these special programs by Chris Carter, highlighting the fascinating history of Windsor and Essex County.

The Canadian Transportation Museum & Heritage Village

**6155 Arner Townline, Essex, On
ctmhv.com 519-776-6909**



“History As It Used to Was”

- by Ted Steele, HEIRS Director

As we reach the cold month of January, the cold and flu season is again upon us. It seems appropriate to take a look at what our ancestors did to get through the winter months, and what home treatments & cures they used. It was usually the job of the grandmother to make sure the girls knew what had to be done, so that they could look after their own families some day.

Every housewife needed some basic knowledge of “simples” and “benefits”. “Simples” referred to herbs used as a remedy, while “benefits” referred to those old-fashioned herbs which were used to maintain good health.

This of course, required an herb garden, usually planted close to the house in a sheltered spot; these herbs also were used to flavour food & help preserve it, and to prepare insect repellents. Ingredients such as horehound, licorice, honey & black currants were popular.

Also used were vinegar, celery & lettuce. Geranium leaves applied to a cut speeded healing, while chicken fat relieved earache & eased deafness.

A spider web placed on a cut would help the blood to clot. Asparagus was thought to purify the blood, while celery would cure rheumatism and neuralgia; lettuce was an aid to sleep well. A cloth soaked in hot water and placed on a cold sore would help, while steeped black tea leaves would remove a sty on the eyelid. Should this remedy fail, it might be charmed away if someone repeated 3 times, “You’ve a sty on your eye”, to which the patient would reply, “It’s a lie.” The lucky third time was the charm!

I have been told of a treatment for wart removal by rubbing them with a dirty baby diaper, which is then buried in the back yard! A curious combination of faith and superstition at times entered the medical scene, apparently.

A treatment called “Celebrated Salve” was considered a cure-all for bruises, old sores and cuts, and was used in plasters to treat rheumatism and pleurisy. Its recipe is as follows: 1/4 pound of mutton tallow, 1/4 pound of beeswax, and 3 pounds of rosin, to be combined and melted. Work in the same way as “pulled candy”, or shoemaker’s wax.

Horehound, a flowering herb, was used against throat irritation as well as being a candy flavouring. In truth, it is still available to buy as a hard candy and as a throat treatment.

To prepare it... “Steep 1 teaspoon dried & ground horehound leaves in a cup of boiling water for 3 hours. Press the leaves occasionally, then strain & pour the liquid into a pot. Add 1 cup brown sugar, 1 cup of white sugar, 1/4 cup of corn syrup & 1/4 teaspoon of salt. Simmer to dissolve the sugar, then boil to 246 degrees, gradually increasing the heat. (Use a candy thermometer.) Add 1 heaping teaspoon of white sugar, cook to 310 degrees. Boil to the “hard crack” stage, remove at once & pour quickly into an 8 inch square greased pan. Scrape leftover bits into a separate dish, as they will granulate. Cut the candy with kitchen shears before it cools and set the pieces on a platter. Use as lozenges, or add to a cup of boiling water to sooth an irritated throat.

It should be noted, that settlers often made use of knowledge shared with them by the local First Nations groups, who knew much about what herbs and plants could be beneficial, which might be poisonous, and how to prepare many of these remedies.

Indeed, the tea made from willow bark was a pain treatment, which was found fairly recently to contain an ingredient from the aspirin family.

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 2016 to April 2017

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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