

Vol. 2 – February 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...

February's meeting:

-The Black Militia Unit's role in the War of 1812

Newsletter News!

No matter which ground hog's predictions you rely on to plan your activities for the rest of the winter, we in Southwestern Ontario have had a pretty good one so far. (Our apologies to the skiers, ice fishermen, snowmobilers & snowmen makers in the readership of course.)

Not only does a mild, early winter save a lot of sore backs, but it reduces our demand on fuel to warm our homes, and its associated reduction on our heating bills too. If this weather pattern continues, might it reduce the number of snowbirds nesting in the deep south in the future?

This issue, we are highlighting Black History Month, with our monthly meeting presentation outlined below and featuring two selected books to tempt your interest in discovering more about this part of our collective past. We hope you can take part in some of the regional special events during this month.

February's Meeting

When: Thursday, ***February 28th, 1:30 PM***

Where: Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Centre

Our February meeting speaker will be Elise Harding Davis, Harrow area resident and well-known consultant on African-Canadian Heritage Studies. She is a seventh generation descendent of slaves, and actively works to promote and preserve her heritage. She is a lecturer, a researcher, and writer on many topics reflecting black cultural issues.

In the past, she has served as curator of the North American Black Historical Museum and Cultural Center in Amherstburg, and The Nazery African Methodist Episcopal Church National Historic Site.

Her work has been recognized by an honorary degree from St Clair College, as well as the Herb Gray Harmony Award. She will speak on the contributions by blacks during the War of 1812, a largely untold story which richly deserves to be shared.

Photographer Edison Goodfellow kindly provided this image of Elise Harding Davis for our newsletter cover & meeting announcement.

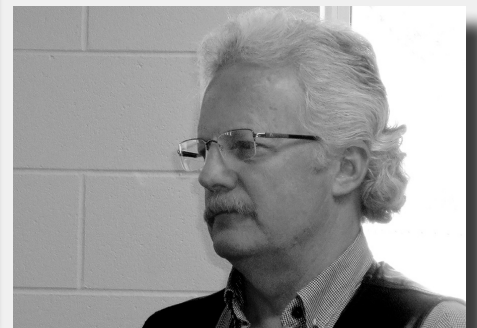


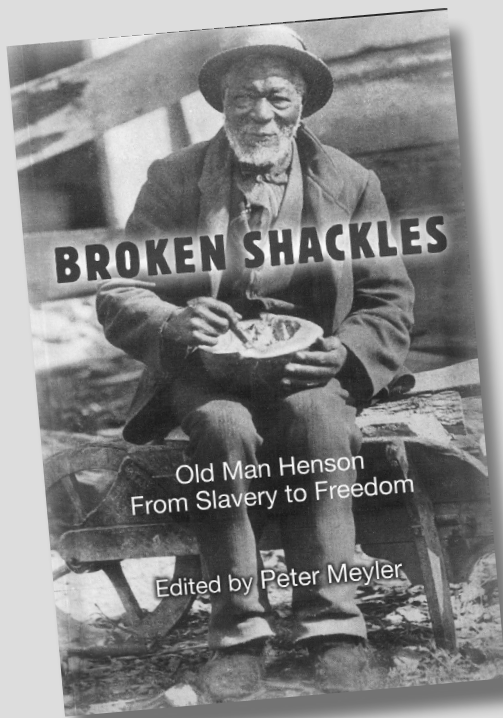
Mathew Elliot

On Thursday, January 24th, HEIRS members were treated to a very interesting presentation on Mathew Elliott. Kirk Walstedt told of Elliott's career as an Indian agent for the British, and how he was often the only white man who could actually persuade the Indians to fight with the British against the Americans. He led Native groups into battle both in the American Revolution and again in 1812. Though he could neither read nor write, he became the elected representative of the Essex area and a Justice of the Peace. He died in the Burlington area, still defending Canada against the invaders.

Kirk explained how he and a group of fellow archaeologists did a "dig" on the Elliott site in the mid-1960s, and found many relics of this bygone era. Household items such as pins, buttons, coins and pottery shards were found, and military buttons also proved the presence of U.S. military personnel, likely during the 1813 occupation of Amherstburg by U. S. troops.

Kirk also showed a sword and two types of rifles in use at the time of the War of 1812. Members had a small glimpse into the world of Mathew Elliott, an important, though controversial, military and political figure in Canada's history.





Paperbound, 200 pages, many B&W photos & illustrations and a good index.

Broken Shackles

Old Man Henson from Slavery to Freedom

- edited by Peter Meyler

This paperback was originally published in 1889 in Toronto. It is a collection of remembrances of James Henson, an African American who used the Underground Railway to escape slavery in Maryland and eventually settle in Owen Sound, Ontario.

A born storyteller, Old Man Henson describes scenes of horror in captivity, and a harrowing escape through New Jersey and Pennsylvania to Canada.

His stories and observations will shock at times and be amusing at other times.... as his life experiences come alive for us to better understand that period.

There are few books which tell the story of former slaves in their own words, as this book does.

Some stories of slave treatment are brutal, but true, as recollected by Henson, who lived through them.

Shad

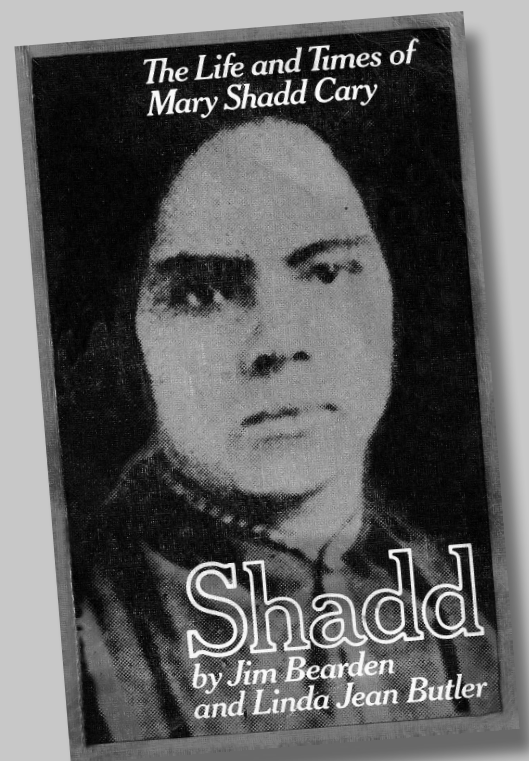
The life and Times of Mary Shadd Cary

- by Jim Bearden & Linda Jean Butler

Shadd tells of a black woman born to free parents who through the mid-1800s was a leader for women's rights, an educator, was highly educated herself, an outspoken public speaker, abolitionist, a recruiting officer for the Northern Army during the American Civil War, a qualified practising lawyer, and a single mother of two. She is the first black woman known to have edited a newspaper in North America.

Mary lived for some time in Chatham, Ontario, and tirelessly promoted black rights and anti-slavery protests. Her male compatriots of the time, men such as Frederick Douglas, abolitionist John Brown, newspaper publisher Henry Bibb and Josiah Henson (of Uncle Tom's Cabin fame) have had their stories told and are much better known. But Mary Shadd Cary deserves the same right to be honoured for what she accomplished.

This edition received grants from the Ontario Council for the Arts and the Canada Council.



Paperbound, 233 pages, with footnotes and index, B&W photos & sketches in large print format.

March 11th & 25th, 2013

In early March, HEIRS will again be offering an introductory course in Genealogy through ElderCollege. This is a fun way to start exploring your own family tree. The course will be offered at the Kingsville Public Library, on Main Street in Kingsville, on March 11, in a 2-hour session. Then, 2 weeks later (March 25th), all participants are invited back to the HEIRS library in Harrow, to discover the resources that HEIRS has to offer. Please call HEIRS for more information on registering for the course.



Finding the Skeletons In Your family's Closet

H.E.I.R.S. PASTA FUNDRAISER
PROCEEDS USED TO HIRE A STUDENT



SATURDAY MARCH 02, 2013

K of C HALL HARROW ON.

5PM TO 7PM

TICKETS : ADULT \$10.00

12 & UNDER \$5.00

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM MEMBERS,

AT RESOURCE CENTRE (738-3700)

AND AT THE DOOR.

WALK-INS WELCOME Take Out Available

Thinking Ahead: A New Summer Festival

On August 9, 10 & 11, 2013, the first Colchester VillageFest will be held.

Enjoy locally produced foods, wines, and music along the historic shores of Colchester, (or enjoy a cold beer if wine is not your choice).

Daily family-friendly events at the beach, splash pad, cooling ice cream and a full service marina will be offered. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Robert H. Barclay Bi-National Peace Garden at the harbour for redevelopment work. Want to get involved?

Contact Chairman Jim Oakley at joakley@cogeco.ca. More information will be available in future newsletters. **Mark this one on your summer activities calendar!**

Labour Day Weekend

The Parks and Recreation Department of Kingsville is now accepting resumes from entertainers / re-enactors / musical groups / and artists for the 2013 Tall Ships Tour taking place locally on Labour Day weekend, 2013. Each port in our area will be hosting events in conjunction with the Tall Ships Festival, and organizers are seeking quality entertainment for the many venues. Particularly, they are encouraging groups with an 1812 component to take part in the events.

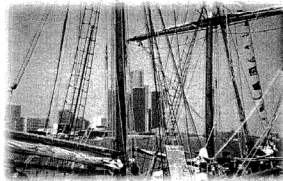
For further information, please contact: Maggie Durocher, Manager of Programs, Parks and Recreation Department, The Corporation of the Town of Kingsville, 2021 Division Road North, Kingsville ON, N9Y 2Y9. Phone: 519-733-2123 or visit www.kingsville.ca.



Call to Entertainers

5 Ports + 3 Days = 1 Festival

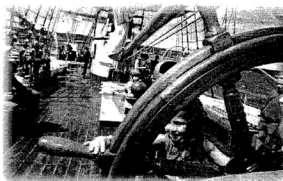
TALL SHIPS 1812 TOUR



WHAT: A Community Festival

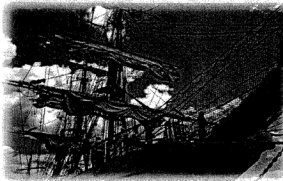
FIVE regional ports have partnered for a 3-day festival to host various ships from the Tall Ships™ America Fleet as part of the Tall Ships™ 1812 Tour.

Ports: Windsor, Amherstburg, Kingsville, Leamington, Pelee Island.



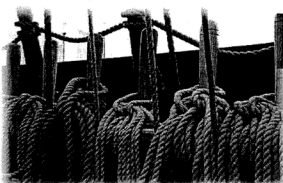
WHEN: Aug 30 - Sept 1, 2013

The festival begins with an Opening Ceremony Fri, Aug 30th, 2013 at Dieppe Gardens in Windsor. Tall Ships™ tours + unique programming takes place at each port from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Evening programming will be scheduled at each port.



NEEDED: Entertainers

We are looking for acts (musical, performance, artistic, historical) to showcase throughout the festival and at each of the five ports. Entertainers may be hired to entertain at multiple ports. An 1812-themed act is not mandatory.



PLEASE PROVIDE

- Name
- Style / Category
- Length of Act
- Rate / Fee for Service
- Preferred Port
- Are you willing / able to perform in multiple venues throughout the festival?

Please Email your Proposal / Service Quote To:

Maggie Durocher
Entertainment Chair, Coastal Trails Tall Ships™ 2013 Festival
Email: mdurocher@kingsville.ca



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.*

HEIRS received a request from a member looking for information on the Corlett family once located in the Olinda area of Essex County. If you have any information or a resource that could be helpful, please contact HEIRS, by phone at 519-738-3700, or by email at heritage@bellnet.ca.

HEIRS is looking for proof of the father-son connection between Prideaux Girty (b 1796, d 1853) and Thomas Girty (b 1817, d 1865), preferably in document form. If you can help, please contact HEIRS by phone (738-3700) or by email at heritage@bellnet.ca.

Kudos to HEIRS

From Maurice and Maisey Muller: we visited your society on Thursday, Jan. 10 of this year and want to express our appreciation for gracious responses to our many questions by the staff of HEIRS - we are interested in researching more records, and would like to attend your monthly meeting in January.

Got Questions?

Drop us a line by snail mail, email or by phone.

Our resources are here to help you discover your own family history.

Here to help!

Need negatives / print copies?
Need videos copied?
Audiotapes burned to CD?

HEIRS can help.
Call us for more information.



February 14

Charles Clark has purchased the Pastorius livery property from A. E. Vickers, and will continue renting it as an implement warehouse. It adjoins Mr. Clark's other lot, giving him one facing on both main streets (King and Queen).

Lewis Quick sold his 28 acres near Oxley to Roy Fox for \$5500. Quick had purchased this a year ago, and made a neat little profit. It will not be long before lake land will turn over at \$300 an acre.

February 21

Ross Quick has purchased and taken possession of the Grondin barber shop; Grondin will work with the A. R. Ferriss farm and has moved there. Garnet Broadwell who has been with Mr. Ferriss has moved to the Wm. Pigeon farm, and Pigeon is going west.

J. H. Madill, Twp. clerk, and John Ridsdale, councillor, conferred with A. T. Gahan re the establishment of a canning factory, and its terms: 1. to erect a factory costing not less than \$15,000 2. get it ready for the 1913 crop 3. employ 75 hands and 4. pack 20,000 cases, contracting for 200 acres this year.

Within 3 years, if the question of labour and the market are favourable, the factory will be equipped for small fruits and vegetables.

John Readman and Clarence Cornwall under the name of Readman and Co. have rented the Heaton block, and will open a general store as soon as the building is refitted. Their stock is already purchased.

February 28

Murdo McLean purchased the Arthur Wright farm for \$10,000 for 90 acres.

Items of interest during February at the Chatham Capitol Theatre:

Feb 10, 17 & 24 at 2 PM

Black History Breaks: The Chatham Kent Black Historical Society travels back in time with 3 films of strength, courage and determination in the face of adversity. No pre-registration needed, doors open at 1 PM.

Feb 11 at 7 PM

Dance Dance Dance is offered. Participants will learn the fundamental movements of African and Caribbean dance, accompanied by live percussion instruments. Register by calling 519-380-0124, or email lgrand@stclaircollege.ca

Feb 23 at 7:30 PM

The United Voices of Detroit, a choral ensemble, specializing in the music of new and established African American composers, will perform.

Under the direction of Nina Scott, they will sing the word of God, and include classical, spirituals, anthems and popular music. Tickets are \$20, on sale at www.chathamcapitoltheatre.com.

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

Now Due: May 2012 to April 2013: \$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, beginning Jan. 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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