



Vol. 2 – February 2019

HEIRS

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society

n e w s l e t t e r



Next meeting...

Diggin' History - Local Artifacts Uncovered

Welcome to the February 2019 newsletter.

I shifted gears recently, leaving my own namesake family members behind for a while & switched over to those ancestors of my wife. A few years back, a relative had sent over 80 images from Scotland on CD. Marvelous photos of family wedding days, special anniversaries, birthdays of octogenarians... all wonderfully posed shots, like only photographers from back then seem to be able to capture.

*The problem was not the photos themselves; even with their cracks, creases & tears. And even with their time faded colours of sepia, green & yellow casts. **No, it was the scanning process!** They were all high resolution, but unfortunately the person doing the scans neglected to dust off the pictures & CLEAN the scanner bed. Hours of work has since ensued, removing spots not only from backgrounds & clothing, but from eyeballs, noses, mouths & teeth. What were wonderful images, became a retoucher's nightmare, just the sheer volume of these spots. **Moral of the story:** If you make the effort to scan great photos, take a moment to clean your scanner first! But you won't be seeing 'spots before your eyes' like I still do, at our next meeting. **See you there?***

Next Meeting

Thursday, February 21st 1:30PM

Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Meeting Room

NOTE: SPECIAL MEETING DATE
(3rd Thursday of the month, this month only!)

The HEIRS meeting on Thursday, February 21, (note that date) will present Ken Hunter, local farmer for many years.

This region was home to many native groups for centuries & Ken will share his memories of unearthing many Native American artifacts while tilling the soils.

He will also display his treasures to be enjoyed by us all. Ken is an easy-going talker whose *folksy* style makes him an enjoyable presenter to hear.

His presentation will help us appreciate the many finds from the past that he has been fortunate enough to uncover.

Amherstburg Freedom Museum: Special Events for Black History Month.

Unusual & rarely seen items will be on display. A \$1.00-off admission discount goes to visitors answering a simple question: "Who built the Nazrey African Methodist Episcopal Church, National Historic Site of Canada, and in what year?"

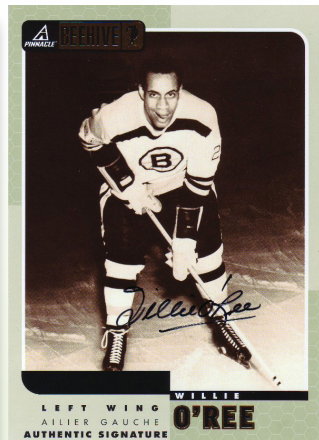
If you just happen to know that it was built in 1848 by previously enslaved blacks who escaped from the USA, then the discount is yours. Learn more about this chapter of Canadian history.

Tuesday-Friday 12-5pm & Sat/Sun 1-5pm
\$7.50 /adult and \$6.50/ student/senior
519-736-5433 amherstburgfreedom.org

On January 24, 2019, HEIRS director Ted Steele spoke on some of the heroes from minority groups, people often overlooked, ignored and unfortunately that have often been quickly forgotten.

This meeting was intended to kick off Black History Month, celebrated each February, but Ted also highlighted amazing women, First Nations individuals who have stood out & those 'heroes' from other minority groups.

We learned of Tom Longboat, a turn of the century Canadian Indian who owned most of the world's distance running records.



Also, Willie O'Ree, the NHL's first black player, who played with a major disability but was so good that others did not even know he was handicapped.



We learned of the women whose contributions during wartime were monumental in scope; and how Newfoundland's residents, often the butt of jokes, also contributed militarily, much more than most of us realize.



By meetings' end many of us were re-examining our own ideas and concepts of how we regard the contribution of minorities to our society... past & present.

4 HEIRLOOMS

A cousin of mine gifted me with what is thought to be a family heirloom, though it comes without any background information at all.



It is a powder 'horn', made of very dried leather, which once held gunpowder for use with a flintlock-style rifle. This type of gun was made obsolete by the development of paper cartridges which held the powder more conveniently, and were easier to use. Eventually these were in turn replaced by the cartridges we are all familiar with today. The paper cartridges came into general use about 1840, so the horn itself would be dated somewhere in the early 1800s.

The item itself is unique and interesting, but poses the question, "What do I do with it?"

As I get older, I find myself becoming the custodian of multiple artifacts, and am feeling the pressure to 'find them a good home'. I'm sure other HEIRS members can identify with my situation.

My first thought was to photograph or scan the items, and retain any factual information for my genealogy files. Then I sent out a message to family members, asking if any of them was interested in accepting any of these treasures.

When that got no result, I had to look at other options. Groups such as HEIRS do sometimes accept donations; regional museums do as well. The powder horn might be of interest to the curator at Fort Malden, or to anyone who belongs to a re-enactment group, or someone like Charles Wimperis, who spoke to HEIRS recently about Simon Girty as the horn would be from approximately that time period.



A posting on a site like "Kijiji" might draw offers, and I expect area antique dealers might be interested too. At the moment, my preference would be to donate them to a non-profit group, and failing that, to sell them to a local collector or even an HEIRS member if possible. My time as 'keeper of the artifacts' is coming to an end, but I would like to feel that my items will continue to be taken care of appropriately.

If any readers have thoughts on this issue, or even suggestions, they would be much appreciated. Your input and feedback are invited and welcomed. - Ted Steele

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.

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.

C. A. MacMAHON,
Manager.

AMHERSTBURG BRANCH.

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 by being notified I will go after her. A. F. H. Vereker.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL.

Miss W. H. Hanson's condition kept her about the same.

MALDEN.

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

Mrs. Frank Hunt has been offering Win. Golden medicine from being attacked by influenza rheumatism.

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 \$80 and costs. The town, through their solicitors, 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. Brooker 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. which 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 the sidewalks thereon, 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 default. The defendant corporation applies to set aside the judgment entered against it, on the ground that there is no evidence that the sidewalk in question was out of repair. The law requires a municipal corporation to keep its streets, and the sidewalks thereon, 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 default. The defendant corporation applies to set aside the judgment entered against it, on the ground that there is no evidence that the sidewalk in question was out of repair. The law requires a municipal corporation to keep its streets, and the sidewalks thereon, 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 default. The defendant corporation applies to set aside the judgment entered against it, on the ground that there is no evidence that the sidewalk in question was out of repair.

ANDERDON COUNCIL.

Saturday, Feb. 27th.

Council met in regular session with all members present. Moved by Messrs. Groulx and Cote, that the minutes just read be adopted.—Carried. Moved by Messrs. Volans and Cote, that Fred Pagau get a warrant for \$4 groceries furnished to the Ver... Carried. Moved by Messrs. Cote and Volans that Antoine Lenoir get a clearing ice from of 60 and Wilbert Sutte bridge on south st. Moved by Messrs. Groulx and Cote that Isaac Groulx refund of dog tax. Messrs. Cote and Volans get a wa sheep killed by un Moved by Messrs. Cote and Volans that Harold Wais \$5 for two occ Willis Howard waste labour. applied for a side line in or for the water property. and Cote and Volans, and Cote and Volans, and Cote and Volans.

BURK BROS.



LIME FOR SALE
IN
CARLOAD LOTS.

February 14

George Eede sold his farm on Potlake to James Howie, to be occupied by Roy Howie, whose farm has been bought by Frank and Roy Butler. George Eede plans to move west to farm.

News received from Philadelphia, PA. - death of Gordon Fisher Ferriss, at the home of his sister, Mrs. Adna Brown; had been taken ill on the boat where he was head chef. His daughter Hazel (Mrs. Thos. Hanley) & sister Lydia Brown were in constant attendance. His father, Thomas H. Ferriss, had travelled to PA. to visit his daughter. Gordon was the first son & 3rd child of T. H. And Margaret Fisher Ferriss, born on a farm 50 years ago, Oct. 13, 1869.

He married Millie L. Hughes in Jan of 1889; she died 17 years ago. They had 4 children—Hazel; Cassie (Mrs. Hilland Pettypiece of Amherstburg; Claire, with the C.E.F. In France; and Marguerite, lately of Philadelphia. 5 sisters & 1 brother survive: Mrs. A. L. Klie, Colchester; Miss Maggie, at home; Mrs. Robert Sexton & Mrs Fred J. Hughes, of Windsor; & Lydia Brown; & Forest H., merchant in Harrow.

Gordon conducted a bakery & confectionary business in Harrow, a restaurant in Windsor then went to Amherstburg. His nickname was "Hoop"

Mrs. Gore Richardson died of a stroke following typhoid fever; nursed Gore & 3 sick children who also had typhoid. She was the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Langlois, married Gore 23 years ago; she leaves a husband & 7 children, the youngest a baby 2 months old. She is survived by her parents, 3 brothers & 3 sisters.

February 21

Howard Heaton is looking after Heinz pickles, and is taking 5 times the acreage as last year for cauliflower, and the usual amount of pickles.

W. D McVey's is becoming as popular a winter resort as a summer house.

February 24

John Readman will handle McCormick machinery and sewing machines, washing machines and cream separators.

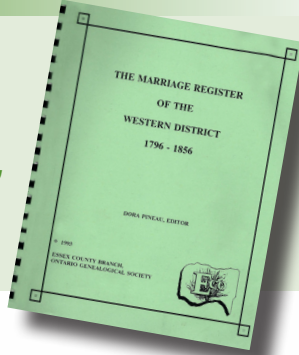
6 From the HEIRS Lending Library

Another jewel in our collection that is not well known, rarely used, yet has much to offer.

Marriage Register of the Western District (1796-1856)

Originally published by the Essex County branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, in 1993, this book was edited by Dora Pineau & is a paperbound book with plastic coil binding, 8.5 by 11 inches, with 88 pages of entries.

The "Western District" in earlier days consisted of what we now call Southern Ontario, mainly that section from London to Windsor. These are arranged in groups, according to the Justice of the Peace or other official who performed the ceremony. Often the names of witnesses are included, which is a great help in establishing family units, as brothers & sisters were often



acting as witnesses. The location of each marriage is included as well. The first grouping, the Detroit area, has families such as McKee, Dolson, Fox, Snider, Bruner & McLean in the lists. As a further example of entries, page 12 has marriages performed by Rev. Matthew Whiting of the M. E. Church, which list Bruner, Munger, Quick, Malott, Wigle & Hunt as a few of the families represented. In some cases there are ages given for the couple being wed, but not usually. A few entries have the further notation... "persons of colour". Anyone browsing through the pages will almost surely find an ancestor. There may be a marriage or two that will be a surprise!

If interested, HEIRS keeps a copy on its Research shelf, which cannot be removed. But a Lending Library copy can be borrowed & browsed by members'. Sounds like a fun way to spend an evening, reading through & finding kin folk you knew little about!



“Boblo Memories, Along Lake Erie Shores to Detroit, and Kingsville: Sketches of our Town” is a voice out of the past, and a warning about the future. The collection of footage, interviews & memories of how this area was is a copy made from a video, already in poor condition. It is very much better than no copy at all, yet breaks my heart to see it in this condition.

It begins with the activities and rides on Boblo Island & recalls what for many of our members, must have been the ‘good old days’. It serves to remind us of what places there were to be enjoyed, a lost part of many childhoods.



The second part is a look at the earlier years of Detroit’s history, and includes the famous Vernors Ginger Ale plant, Sonny Elliott with his silly weather forecasts (what fun), some of the music hot spots and much more.



The third part is an old program called “Sketches of Our Town”, this one featuring Kingsville. Broadcaster Harvey Kirck wanders the streets and shops, talking with long-time residents about the town, its history and its growth over the years. It paints a warm picture of a small town.



The disk stimulates many memories and awakens the desire in me to enjoy what we have, save what we can, and treasure our own memories... these are our own ‘good old days’, and we need to appreciate them.

The Treasures of HEIRS

- by Ted Steele, HEIRS Director

It's February again... with 2 events worth noting here at HEIRS. Black History Month will be honoured at our meeting on the 21st, and here in our newsletter, we will take a brief look at Valentine's Day and its history.

In pioneer times, survival depended on having a partner. Unless a woman stayed under her parents' roof, she chose from her local options which may have been few and less than desirable. It is not unusual to find records of cousins (sometimes first cousins) marrying, if choices were extremely limited.

Once married, she looked forward to a lifetime of hard work running a household and her family, with babies arriving about every 2 years over a 20-year span. Child mortality was high, medical care extremely limited and women dying in childbirth not uncommon.

Records such as wills and tombstones indicate that long marriages often bonded the couples, and references to a "beloved wife" are frequently seen. **This excerpt from the will of William Steele in 1827 is actually, as far as I know, an exception.**

As it is appointed for all men once to die I William Steel of the Township of Humberstone in the County of Lincoln and Province of Upper Canada being in a poor state of health but of perfect sound mind and memory I declare this to be my last Will and Testament. First, I direct that a suitable time after my decease my body be buried in a decent and orderly manner and that my funeral expenses be fully paid as all my last and lawful debts by me contracted be fully paid by my executors hereafter constituted and appointed by me. The remainder of my estate real and personal divided and disposed of in the following manner. That is to say I give and bequeath to my wife Penelope nothing more than the law requires or allows her. I give and bequeath to my son John twelve pounds ten shillings lawful money of Upper Canada to be paid to him out of my Estate

Penelope was his 3rd wife, and nothing other than this reference is known about her. Their marriage was obviously not a happy one and arouses my curiosity about their troubled relationship.

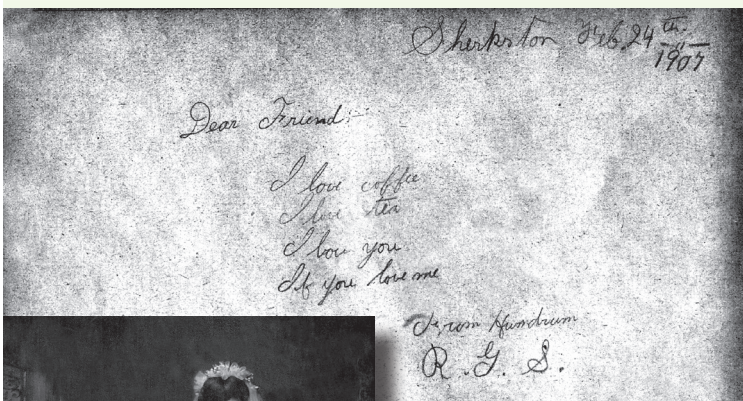
Through the 1800s, as life got slowly but progressively 'easier' for women, showing affection gradually became more obvious in courting and wedded life.

Selecting a partner involved less necessity, and more deep feelings of attachment. Turn of the century valentines show the loosening of Victorian morality rules and a more public show of affection.





If I would buy a hat
for 89 cents like this,
Could I expect
from you a kiss?



The autograph page above belonged to a grade 8 girl finishing her schooling. One of her classmates indicated romantic interest, eventually marrying her.

Our present day ideas of romance, love and marriage developed over time, but we can look back at how our grandparents courted for an understanding of how it used to be. **Feelings remain the same; how they can acceptably be expressed is another matter!**



True love?

She was buried in a Catholic cemetery but her husband was not allowed to be.

So.....

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

\$25 CDN / U.S. per person or couple.

Memberships run May 1st to 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

\$5 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

Website www.HEIRS.ca

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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