

Vol. 5– May 2015

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...

May Meeting:

What Made Our Parents The Way They Were?

Newsletter News!

Welcome to the May edition....

This is our last newsletter until the September edition. This gives us all some time to enjoy the best weather of the year, plan our trips to see family, friends and new places, and for HEIRS a time to consider and plan our Autumn outings.

It's a good time for you to visit some of the past heritage sites and events showcased in our newsletters over the years - dig some up from your "archives" and plan to spend some quality 'staycation' time here in Essex county, learning even more facts than we summarize in our newsletters. Be sure to share some pix with HEIRS and your own impressions, so we can pass them along to fellow members.

*All in all, we expect a good summer. Why not tell your friends and other family members what HEIRS is all about? **We always welcome new members...***

Enjoy!

May Meeting

When: Thursday, May 27th, 1:30 PM

Where: Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Centre

Our May meeting is the last one until September. We need to hold our elections and fill the slate of Directors for the coming year. As well, we want to let everyone know about some exciting events during the summer months.

Then we have planned a short presentation on our own parents. ***This meeting falls between Mother's Day and Father's Day.***

So, it is a good opportunity to look back at the people who raised us, and exactly why they were, the way they were, (which on occasion caused us to think of them as being somewhat *difficult and unreasonable -right*)?

A favourite maxim: ***"There's a reason for everything people do, even if sometimes that reason may be a stupid one".***

We will take a look at some of the causes and reasons behind the way we were raised, and come to appreciate our parents more. Let's hope our children at some point, do the same.

This presentation will be followed by a bit of trivia to challenge your thinking, and social time, with various forms of veggies and nibbles to enjoy.



The HEIRS meeting on April 23 featured Kris Ives from the J R Park Homestead.

Kris spoke of the history of the Homestead, its original owners being the three Park brothers who set up a thriving business including mercantile, shipping, and trade goods of all kinds.

At this time, the building was called Bachelors' Hall. Eventually, John Park married, and Bachelors' Hall became the home of John and Amelia Park, while the other brothers moved on to their own business interests and did well elsewhere.

Through the years, the property had several owners, and is now under the care of the Essex Region Conservation Authority. It has become a living museum of what gracious living in the 1850s would have been.



Its blacksmith shop, old-fashioned gardens, rooms both elegant and practical, and its spectacular view of Lake Erie bring the past to life once more.

Kris outlined the many programs offered; each having a seasonal theme, so the Homestead is an ever-changing series of activities to be experienced by all ages.

Whether it is maple sugaring in spring, Lost Arts, Harvest Time in the fall months or an old time Christmas festival, the J R Park Homestead will entertain and educate all ages, and can be enjoyed over and over again.



4 Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 23rd, 2015, 2 PM

You are invited to a heritage event!

***Plaquing event initiated by
the Federal Government for
War of 1812 Veterans***

***Never before recognized, as this war
occurred before Canada became a country.***

Two Locations:

1. St. Andrew's Anglican Church:

212 King St. Harrow (behind church)
for **Veteran Isaac Ferriss**

2. Then moving to:

Hutchins' Pioneer Cemetery:

Pathway just South of CR 50 on
Cornwall Beach Road
for **Veteran William Hutchins**

**Rev. Jonathan Forbes officiating.
Refreshments following 2nd ceremony.**

See page 9 for more info on these men!

***As we enter the warm months of Spring
and Summer, everyone is looking for
new things to do and experience, and the
many local history groups offer a full slate
of events. The following is a sampling of
these, by no means complete...***

June 12th

The Kent County branch of the O.G.S. meets at St. Andrews Residence, 99 Park Street, Chatham, at 7 PM to hear Geraldine Robertson talk about the Residential Schools. This was the badly misguided government policy of the 1950s, when First Nations children were removed from their families & placed in institutions to "educate the Indian out of them". The topic is unusual & disturbing, but it is a story that needs to be told.

June 13th

The official dedication of the newly-restored Bois Blanc Blockhouse will be held. Plans are well under way, & it is hoped that the afternoon will include re-enactors in costume as well as members of the Essex Kent Scottish, who grew from the local militia which was very much involved with the rebellions of 1837. This will be a special event, so mark it on your calendar, & watch for more details.

June 13th & 14th

The Southern Ontario Military Muster will be held at the Essex Sports Complex. Saturday morning opening will include a military parade from the Essex Legion to the Arena grounds, & the weekend offers displays of military vehicles & weapons, as well as tables of items for sale.

Saturday July 4th

The annual HEIRS Fund-Raiser Barbecue event will be held as various directors offer up sausages, hot dogs, burgers, pop & chips in front of Sanford's Food Store on Main Street here in Harrow. We request your support, as any group is only as strong as its members.

***The Windsor Essex Trolley Tours are
again roaming the county roads to various
destinations.*** In partnership with the trolleys, HEIRS is designing a few tours of historical significance, which should be offered soon. Each will feature narrated or guided historic stops, and a lunch stop at either a local winery or restaurant, to make the day complete. Any groups wishing to book a tour or have one designed for your needs can contact Bill Baker at booking@wetrolley.com and for more information visit www.wetrolley.com.

This is a fun way to see the county & its many attractions!

**A STORY OF
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
IN
Colchester South Township**



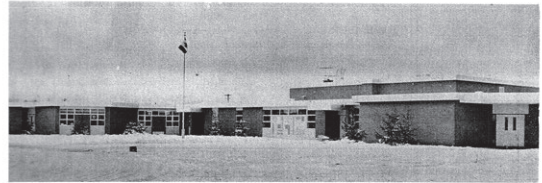
Prepared by
The Harrow and Colchester South Township
School Area Board

for
The Official Opening of the
**HARROW DISTRICT ELEMENTARY
SENIOR SCHOOL**

March 11th, 1966

Walter Sellick, Chairman; Allen McLean, Vice-Chairman
Douglas Martin, Glenn Mortimore, David Reid,
Donald Whaley, Edwin Woodbridge, Trustees.
Ira Ferriss, Secretary-Treasurer.

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***Tell your friends in the area now
about our project, so they may also
help us complete our search.***

A special request from HEIRS...

In our book collection, we have a soft cover volume entitled "***A Story of Public Schools in Colchester South Township***".

It was prepared in 1966 by the (then) Harrow and Colchester South Township School Area Board. The many photos in it are photocopies made at that time, using original photos loaned by the public for this purpose.

We at HEIRS would like to re-do this book, and make it available in a new high quality format with photo reproductions, using the technology of 2015, rather than the previous technical limitations of 1966.

To complete this enhanced quality reprint, we are seeking anyone who has old photos of these schools, class pictures and teachers, etc., to contact HEIRS so that we can make quality reproductions of these items.

We only wish to borrow originals for a short time! Just enough time to allow us to make high quality reproductions. This in turn, will also provide you with a good quality 'copy' of your precious photos too. ***Thank you.***

Interested in family history??

Then please join the Kent Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society for one or all of our monthly meetings. Free and open to the public. For more info, visit our website at:

www.ogs.on.ca/kent/

2015 Program Schedule

January 9, 2015 - DIGITAL COLLECTION - CK Library staff

February 13, 2015 - DABBLING IN DNA - Brenda Travis

March 13, 2015 - THE BALDOON SETTLEMENT - Brian Anderson

April 10, 2015 - UKRAINIAN RESEARCH - Wayne Vizniowski

May 8, 2015 - VICTORIAN CELEBRATION OF DEATH - Catherine MacKendrick

June 12, 2015 - RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS - Geraldine Robertson

All meetings are held at 7 P.M. at St. Andrew's Residence at 99 Park St., Chatham. Open and free to the public!

MEETINGS ARE LIVE STREAMED AND RECORDED

Visit our website for details to join us live online





2015 EVENTS

- May 10.....Mother's Day Buffet
- May 14 - October 15.....Every Thursday Night Cruise-In
- May 18.....International Museum Day Event
- June 14.....Festival of Cars Show
- June 20.....Highland Dance Competition
- June 21.....Father's Day Buffet
- June 27-28.....Spring Flea Market
- July 19.....All British Car Show
- September 6.....Festival of Cars Show
- September 12.....Cabaret Singers ~ Dinner & Show
- September 19-20.....Fall Flea Market
- September 27.....Militaria & Hunting Show
- October 17.....Fall Colour Tour
- October 24.....Village Murder Mystery
- November 15.....Militaria & Hunting Show
- November 28.....Christmas Craft Show
- December 20.....Breakfast with Santa
- December 31.....New Year's Eve Party & Raffle Car Draw



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The Business Side of HEIRS:

Membership dues are about to expire for the current year.

To remain up-to-date, please renew by May 1, 2015, with your greatly appreciated \$25 payment. Members can check with HEIRS secretary Kathy Langlois to ensure you are not currently in arrears.

Our May gathering ends the current season as meetings cease until September.

The May meeting is a social event, but the business of the election of Directors must be concluded as well. Please consider joining as a Director to help keep HEIRS alive, well and moving ahead.

June's newsletter will outline the various summer projects and activities.

A group like HEIRS is only as healthy as the interest shown by its members.

CORRECTION

The last issue of our newsletter listed the founders of the Black History Museum as "Mac and Dorothy Simpson"; this should have read "Mac and Betty Simpson". Please excuse the error.

ERRORS

If you happen to find any mistakes in this newsletter, please consider that they are put there for a purpose. We try to include something for everyone, and some people are always looking for mistakes. We try to please... ;-)

OGS Essex County Branch

Upcoming Speaker

May 11th

"How newspapers contribute to Family History Research"

Veronique Mandal, Head of Journalism, St. Clair College

Windsor Public Library, lower level - 7PM - 850 Oullette Avenue

- Everyone Welcome -

The Hutchins & Ferriss Families of Essex County - by Ted Steele

Ruth Hutchins Nicholson and her sister, Susan McCloskey Hutchins, both UE, decided to honour their ancestors, Isaac Ferriss & William Hutchins, by taking advantage of the government program to provide plaques of honour at a very reasonable price. On Saturday, May 23, a ceremonial "placing of the plaques" will be held. The placing of plaques at these 2 burial sites of 2 local veterans of 1812 should interest many of our readers.



William Hutchins arrived in the Niagara area around 1780 from England, and married Amy Tamar Dennis, daughter of Ezekiel Dennis, the first Quaker (Friend) to settle in Ontario and apply for a land grant. She married outside the faith, and was therefore expelled from Friends. She and William came to Amherstburg about 1810. Being a ship builder, his services were in demand at Fort Malden, with the approach of the 1812 conflict. He and Amy had a family at least 8 children. Their son Charles married Cynthia Doan, daughter of Moses Doan and Mary Wintermute.

The Doan family roots stretch back to Pennsylvania, and before that, back to Plymouth Colony in 1633. Cynthia Doan's brother, Abraham Leonard Doan, married Marilla Steele, my GGGG grandfather's sister, so I have a link to the family as well (one of several!). This Doan family is very wide-ranging, and includes James Doan, (Kingsville druggist of Doan's Pills fame), the notorious Doan Outlaws of the American Revolution, and more recently, Shane Doan of the NHL plus Olympic speed skater Caterina Lemay Doan. Another son, William, provides the Hutchins family with ancestors in the Brush, Cornwall, and Bruner, as well as Arner and Iler family lines.

Isaac Ferriss enlisted as a teenager in support of the crown, and served with distinction. As a 14 year old, he volunteered for a "suicide mission", involving swimming the Detroit River to spy on American invading troops on Bois Blanc Island. He was successful in this, and served throughout the conflict.

The many members of the Ferriss family in the Harrow area today, and Ferriss Road itself, show the impact of the family to local history. We have 2 local veterans of 1812 being honoured, and they played an important role in Essex County history, and even that of Canada itself.

It is hoped that more local families with ancestors who served in 1812 will decide to place plaques at their ancestors' graves as well; our heroes deserve to be recognized and remembered, and HEIRS can help to bring this about. See page 4 for information on the plaque ceremonies.

Hours of Operation: September to June (excluding December)

Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM - 3PM, Wednesday or other appointments: (Please call to confirm hours.)

Memberships Due: April 2015 to May 2016: \$25 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, as of January 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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