

Vol. 9 – November 2012

# H.E.I.R.S.

*newsletter*

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society



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243 McAfee St., PO Box 53,  
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Harrow & Colchester South  
Community Centre (Arena Bldg.)



***Inside this Issue...***

***November's meeting:***

***Bob Lynch - Story of the WE & LS Railway***

## Newsletter News!

Our last Newsletter for 2012. We've covered a great year, commemorating the War of 1812, taken you to several local historical sites, met a bunch of new friends at our meetings and provided a host of regional event opportunities to explore with your families. Thanks to all members and interested guests for supporting our endeavours.

We're lining up more topics, people and events for 2013 to bring to HEIRS members both near and far. The digital newsletter version provides opportunity to use great colourful images from today, with a nostalgic look back using early photographs too.

All the best, from the Directors of HEIRS to our members and their families for an enjoyable, safe and fun upcoming holiday season. *Here's to 2013!*

## November's Meeting

**When:** Thursday, Nov. 22nd, 1:30 PM

**Where:** Harrow-Colchester Arena  
Community Centre

HEIRS will welcome local author, Bob Lynch. Bob's presentation will discuss the electric railway that provided transportation to the residents of Windsor and Essex County, quickly and cheaply, between the years of 1907 and 1932.

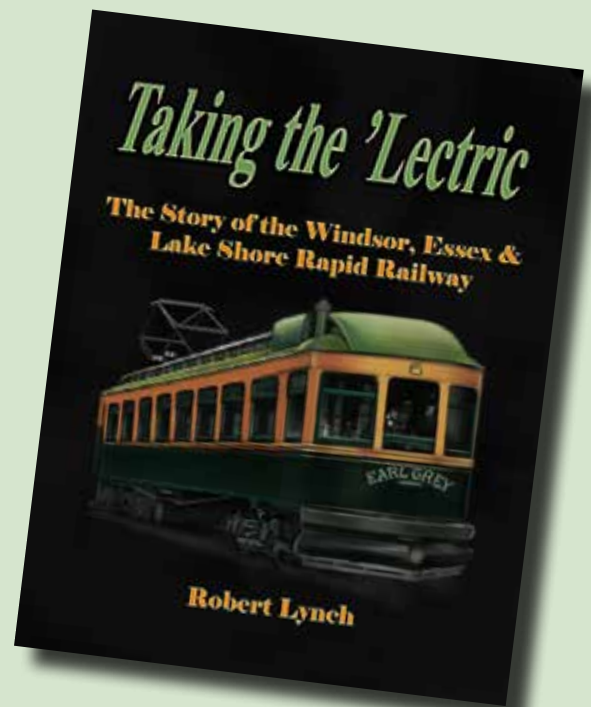
It ran from downtown Windsor to Maidstone, then through Essex, Northridge, Cottam, through Kingsville to Leamington.

His recently released book, *'Taking the 'Lectric'* (showcased in a previous HEIRS newsletter) details the many stories from the short, but illustrious era of this local electric railway, the Windsor, Essex and Lake Shore Rapid Railway.

Bob researched his topic for the last five years, and will share all that he has learned of this most interesting topic.

**Join us!**

Photos: Sylene Argent, *Essex Free Press*





## Unsung Heroes... Lest We Forget

Our October meeting presenter was Ted Steele, one of HEIRS' directors. He shared some of the more unusual stories in his files on Remembrance, and and tried to focus on some individuals who "followed their hearts" and did the right thing in some very difficult and dangerous situations.

Oskar Schindler, Irena Sendler, Franz Steigler and Gail Halvorsen were only 4 of those who ought to be celebrated and remembered as true heroes. They are too often unknown and unappreciated: Schindler, whose "list" saved over 700 Jews from the Holocaust, Irena Sendler, who saved hundreds of Polish Jewish babies and children from the Nazis, Franz Steigler, German ace who refused to bring down a badly damaged B17 bomber, and instead saved the 25 crewmen, and Gail Halvorsen, who dropped treats and brought hope to Berlin children during the postwar Berlin Airlift.

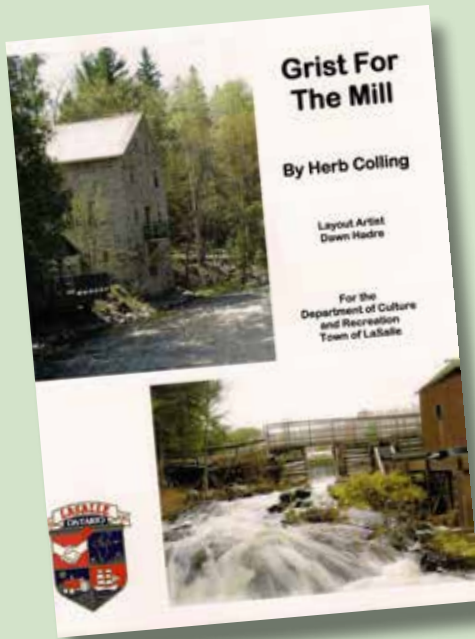
The theme of Ted's talk was "to remember the terrible things that happened, but also remember the goodness and humanity shown in some instances".



## 4 Available from the HEIRS Library

### GRIST FOR THE MILL

- by Herb Colling



Local author Herb Collin is retired from CBC Radio, and has written books on local history, including the Detroit Riots of 1967, the Ford Strike in Windsor of 1945, and the early days of the auto industry.

In this book, Mr. Colling provides a look back at the early days of Ontario, when most people were farmers, and nearly all activities were centered around the local community. A mill to grind the grains into flour was a necessity, and communities spring up where such a mill was available.

He presents an easy to read paperbound book of 72 pages, with black and white maps and illustrations. It helps us to understand why so many localities sprang up along our waterways, taking advantage of both water power and transportation. Included is information on some of these early structures that are open to the public.

- available from the HEIRS lending library

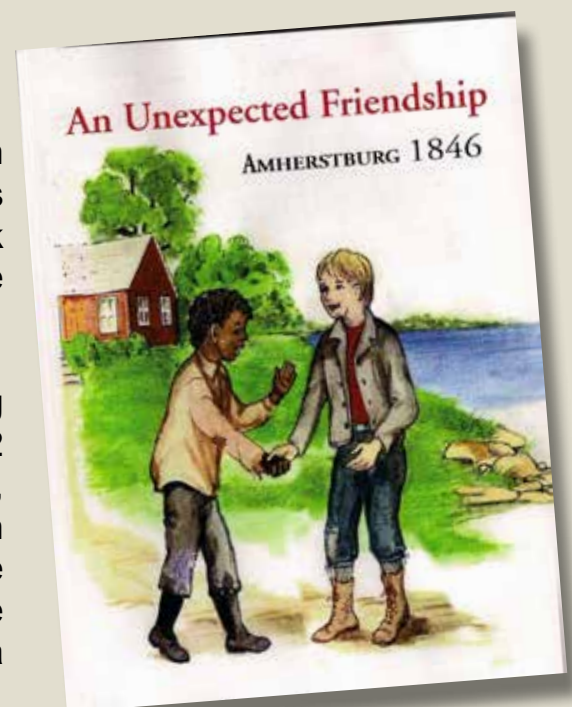
### An Unlikely Friendship

- by Jane Buttery

HEIRS member and local author Jane Buttery has written many books with a historical flavour to them. This one is set in Amherstburg in the early 1840s, when the local black population was of considerable size, due in part to the Underground Railway, which had its terminus in this area.

At a time when racial tensions ran high, two boys attending an interracial school forge an uncommon friendship. 12 year old Josh faces bullies at school because of his colour, and 14 year old Seamus stands up for him, while Josh helps him learn to read and develop self-confidence. The arrival of Irish relatives of Seamus brings out details of the horrendous voyages made by many from Ireland to Canada under extreme conditions.

A story for all age groups, *An Unlikely Friendship* points out in a gentle understated manner that we are all equal and worthy of respect, from others and ourselves.



116 pages with illustrations,  
B&W paperback.

Available from HEIRS, \$13



## November 3

The Friends of the J R Park Homestead offer a workshop, (9-4 Saturday) Even novice basket-weavers, will leave with a finished, fabric-lined bun basket for your holiday meals. Adults only; \$50 registration includes all materials / instruction. Coffee, tea & snacks provided, bring your own lunch. Advance registration required. Call 519-738-2029, or email [jrph@erca.org](mailto:jrph@erca.org).

## November 12th

Kingsville-Gosfield Heritage Society meeting, 2 PM, at the First Baptist Church, Division North, in Kingsville. Guest speaker Bob Swaddling will discuss the famous World War II aircraft, the Spitfire. Renowned for its role in the Battle of Britain, the Spitfire was also used for photo reconnaissance.

## November 16

**River Lights Winter Festival Opening Night** Carollers, beautiful displays, 1812 home tours, holiday concerts, and activities for all ages. To Jan 1, 2012. For more info, call 519 736-4642 or [www.riverlights.ca](http://www.riverlights.ca).

## November 24

**The Amherstburg Santa Claus Parade starts at 6 PM.** For more info, contact by telephone at 519-736-8320.

Notices for upcoming events need to be submitted to the HEIRS office by the 25th of the month, in order to be considered for the following newsletter issue. Digital versions in PDF or JPEG format are most appreciated. Thanks.



**Christmas**  
at the  
**Black Museum**

**Wednesday**  
**Dec. 19, 2012 at 7:00 pm**  
277 King St., Amherstburg

**\$30**  
Call 519-736-5433  
or purchase online at  
[www.blackhistoricalmuseum.org](http://www.blackhistoricalmuseum.org)

Seating limited to 100 guests  
Christmas dessert buffet included

**Renee King Jackson**  
soprano

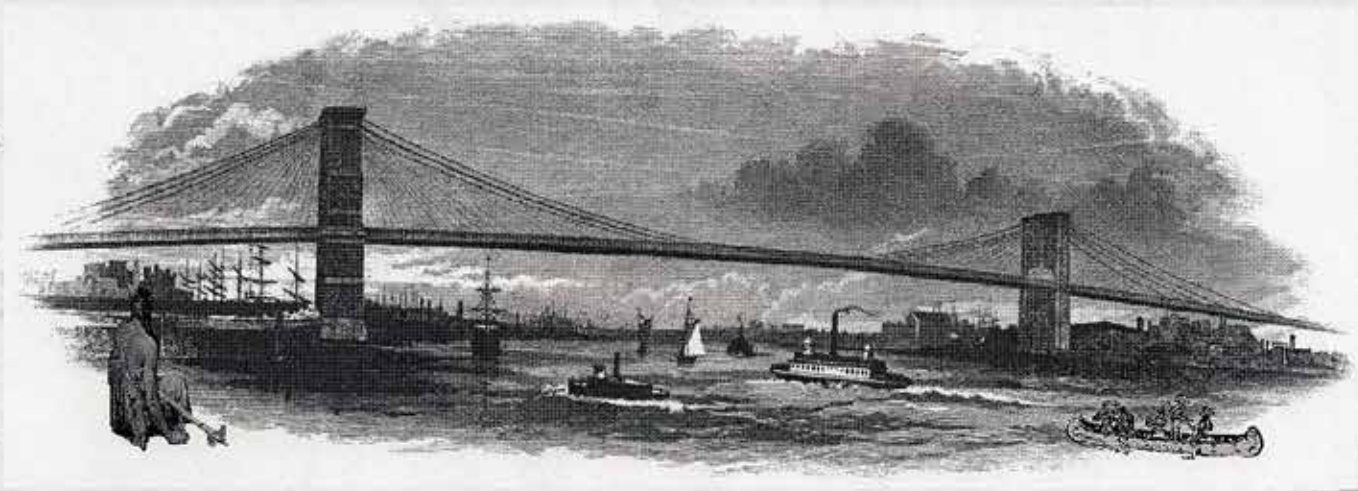
**Madelyn Porter**  
actor





# *A Bridge Across Time...*

## *The Archaeology of the Great Lakes Area*



**The Annual Symposium of the Ontario Archaeological Society  
November 9 -11, 2012**

Holiday Inn Suites Ambassador Bridge: Windsor, Ontario

Featured Events

Tour: National Historic Site Fort Malden

Public Lecture: "The Archaeological History of Olde Sandwich Towne, established 1797"

Guided walking tours: Olde Sandwich Towne

Movie: Explosion 1812

Workshop: Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport

Symposium Sessions

War of 1812: Chaired by Dena Doroszenko and Holly Martelle

Paleoindian and Archaic: Chaired by Christopher Ellis

Woodland: Chaired by Peter Timmins

Western Basin: Chaired by Christopher Watts and Lindsay Foreman

For more details and registration, please visit us on-line @

<http://www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca/>



# Reunion

Written and Directed by David P. Wahr

The story line begins in 1871 at a reunion on Guyor Island in Monroe with veterans of the War of 1812. The audience is led by ghostly apparitions to the very dramatic and emotional events as they are relived by the veterans present. Remember the Raisin!

**Friday, November 16, 2012 at 8pm**

**Saturday, November 17, 2012 at 8pm**

**Sunday, November 18, 2012 at 2pm**

**\$10**

all ages

Monroe  
Community  
Players

Ticket and Show Information  
**(734) 241-7900**  
[www.monroecommunityplayers.org](http://www.monroecommunityplayers.org)

This event is a project of Monroe Community Players in partnership with the 1812 Bicentennial Steering Committee, River Raisin National Battlefield Park, Monroe County Historical Society and Monroe County Community College.

Presented at  
The Meyer Theater

L A Z B O Y  
C E N T E R



MONROE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

1555 South Raisinville Road  
Monroe, MI 48111-9746

This event made possible by a grant from the Monroe County Historical Society.







## From the HEIRS mailbag...

**We continue to gain new members as our group slowly becomes better-known. Don't forget to tell YOUR family members about who we are and what we do.**

Jean McCarron... *"Love your newsletters. A touch of home!! Your new format and colours are very attractive. Enjoying my new life here but miss you all"*.

Mr. Huffman writes that he would like any information on William Woodiwiss, son of William and Harriet, born Sept 25, 1816 in England. He married Mary Tofflemire, born May 21, 1822 and died in 1902.

He is reputed to be a third cousin of Queen Victoria, and Mr Huffman is hoping to be able to prove this connection. William's daughter, Harriet Etta Woodiwiss married Theodore Larabee, born 1837. If you can help Mr Huffman please contact HEIRS to obtain his contact information.



HEIRS wishes to extend condolences to the family of Dorothy Watters Gascoyne, who passed away on Oct. 15 of this year.

Though not active with HEIRS for the last few years, Dorothy had been a long-standing member and participated in various ways.

She helped get newsletters ready for mailing to members, and served as Hospitality Director for monthly meetings, and was always willing to lend a hand and a smile. Our organization benefitted from her participation, and we gratefully remember and acknowledge her dedication.

## 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.





**November 29, 1889**

The Harrow Glee Club has made its debut with credit.

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**December 13, 1889**

AME Zion Church members purchased a beautiful site last week from Judson Shay, corner of Bagot and Clitherow Streets. They will build at once.

---

**December 20, 1889**

Rev P H William lectured on Dec 15; he gave a brief account of the origin of the AME Zion Church in America, and how they withdrew from the M. E. Church which was established in 1768 by Mr Emery.

The coloured people withdrew from the AME and built their first church in 1800, naming it Zion. The connection is known as AME Zion Church.

Its members number 300 000 communicants, and 800 000 attendants, with property valued at 16 million dollars, College property worth \$200 000. There are 26 conferences in the US, Canada and Africa.

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**December 20, 1889**

The brass band has lain dormant for some time, but new blood has been infused, and regular practices will now be in order. They figure on a New Year's Eve concert.

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**November 6, 1891**

A new church is to be built at Comet on a lot donated by James Brush. Christ Church will be re-sided, painted and generally repaired.

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**December 25, 1891**

Local businessman George Pastorius dies.

***Don't forget!***

If you have negatives or prints you need digitized or videos copied or audiotapes burned to CD's....

HEIRS can help.  
Call us for more information.



**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.*

**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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