

Vol. 2– February 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...

February Meeting:
Black History Month

Newsletter News!

Welcome to all groundhogs everywhere (as long as they predict an early Spring).

It takes concerted effort to bring our newsletter to life each issue, and HEIRS kindly requests that if members have anything of potential interest to others - a new picture you've discovered, some historical facts that were once unknown, or something odd in your artifacts you would like to share and test the members' ability to determine its origins, or perhaps learn "what ever it was made to do" - please share.

This added input will provide interest for our readers each month. Don't forget to email us your inquiries on information you are still seeking about your families from this region of Ontario. You might just have what we need, and of course, maybe we have your breakthrough within our archives. Keep in touch.

February Meeting

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

Where: Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Centre

February is Black History Month, and the North American Black History Museum in Amherstburg has many special events planned throughout the month.

Our February speaker, Terran Fader, will provide us details of their events planned for the following months. She is the new curator of the Black Historical Museum, and has ambitious projects planned for the rest of 2015.

Hope to see you at the meeting!



HEIRS members met on January 22 to turn back the clock and “return to those days of yesteryear” when we were kids and times were so much more simple.

Directors Ted Steele & Richard Herniman took us back to the days of Soupy Sales, Shirley Temple, Maypo cereal, trips to the Cottam Dairy Freez, the Hi Ho in Windsor or a full day at Boblo Island Amusement Park.



We remembered the Skyway Drive-In, Hopalong Cassidy, old commercials for Ipana tooth paste and Ajax cleanser.

As part one wound down, we shared some old Faygo pop TV commercials, with Black Bart & the Faygo Kid with one that featured a great song about our topic for this meeting:

*“Comic books and rubber bands,
Climbing to the tree top,
Falling down and holding hands,
Tricycles and red pop,
Pony rides and Sunday nights,
Roller skates and Yo-Yo’s,
Fairy tales and snowball fights,
Climb in through the window;
Remember when you were a kid,
Well, part of you still is,
That’s why we make Faygo,
Faygo remembers.”*

**“Growing older is mandatory,
but growing up is optional”.**



Richard then took us on a tour through our memories of Harrow and area...the stores, merchants, some of the memorable characters of the town, and the short cuts that every kid knew, to get places quickly.

He remembered gathering empty milk and pop bottles to sell, some sold several times! Hills for tobogganing, snowball fights, skating till dark on outdoor rinks, all not allowed these days.

An HEIRS member, Maureen then showed a couple of her treasures- one was a straight razor in its original box, which her grand-father had used until he was into his 90s.



The other was a tool for rounding off the top a fence post, so that a cap could be put on it to fit.



***Many things have changed,
but not all have been
improvements!***

***We thank Maureen for her
input, as members make
the group better by being
involved in the meetings
and activities.***

4 Local Events

Thank you for supporting HEIRS as one of our fellow members. We now ask you for a small favour.

Would you help us, by emailing this Newsletter to a friend or family member who may consider joining us?

Who better, than someone *they* know to endorse what HEIRS annual membership brings:

- *9 newsletters / year*
- *monthly meetings with guest speakers*
- *local trips to places of important genealogical discovery*
- *a wealth of support at our Resource Centre*

All of which, is intended to inspire their interest in discovering more about their own families in this region. And for only \$25 per year.... Thank you!

The Pelee Past Questers group of Leamington hosts its meeting on February 26 at the WFCU building on Erie Street, near Wal-Mart at 7PM. Their topic will be “Junk”. Questers is a group, interested in the study, collection and preservation of antiques and artifacts. ***The public is most welcome to attend their meetings.***

The J. R. Park Homestead is in its mid-winter shutdown time, but will soon be gearing up for its maple sugaring season and other events. In April, we will hear what these spring and summer events will be, as HEIRS hosts Kris Ives, who has taken over as the curator at the Homestead.

The North American Black History Museum has some special events slated for February, Black History Month, which also marks the 40th anniversary of the Museum itself. All pre-booked tours during that month are \$1 off, so it is a great opportunity to save a little and learn a lot!

Tuesday, Feb. 10th: “Workers Historical Museum” and features the video, “Simply The Best”, a documentary on Cal Best. For more information, see the poster in this newsletter. This is a free event, and again, a wonderful opportunity to widen our horizons.

Tuesday Feb. 17th: The Capital Theatre in Windsor is hosting the “Greatest Freedom Show On Earth”, a documentary highlighting Black faith, community and music, as it tells the story of Walter Perry, who organized the first Windsor Emancipation Day parade & festivities in 1936, and was a driving force in its continuation through to 1968.

Winter doldrums have set in, and activities of local groups have become fewer. HEIRS has decided NOT to host its annual pasta fund-raising dinner this year as a number of factors have persuaded us that the event has run its course. It has previously provided funds to allow HEIRS to hire a student to extend our hours through the summer. This resource will not be possible for Summer 2015 unless alternate funding through grants and donations occur. Thank you to all for your past support of the dinners. HEIRS cannot exist without our members' support.

The following books have been written by HEIRS Director Chris Carter, who is part of the Tour Essex Group.

Chris is the “face of HEIRS around the county”, representing our group at many functions and events.

These titles are available from HEIRS...

Tour Olinda, Essex County’s Only Ghost Town.....	\$25
Upper Canada’s Early Iron Industry.....	\$8
Tour Colchester: The Way We Were.....	\$20
Tour The Ghost Coast: County Road 50.....	\$15
Tour Essex: The Lost Communities (updated 2015).....	\$15
Tour 1812 War Sites In Essex and Kent Counties.....	\$20
1814- The Deadliest Battle on Essex County Soil.....	\$8
War on the Detroit (a part reprint diary of a soldier, 1812).....	\$15
War of 1812 Battle Poems (reprint Col. J. R. Wilkinson).....	\$10
Tour Essex/Kent Counties’ Heritage Trail: Early Settlement of African Canadians.....	\$15
Freedom, The Last Stop: A Scrapbook of Black History.....	\$8
Connected: How the Railroads Built Windsor.....	\$18

And Coming in February...

The History of the Wine Industry in Essex County



WORKERS
HISTORY MUSEUM
MUSÉE DE L'HISTOIRE
OUVRIÈRE

James CALBERT BEST

cofounder

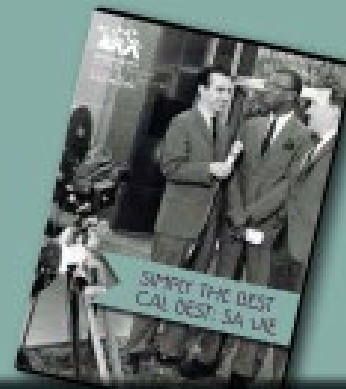


cofondateur



Cal Best, from New Glasgow, NS, co-founded the PSAC and was a union leader who fought for the right to have better collective bargaining in the federal government. He went on to become a senior government official and Canada's first Black High Commissioner (ambassador).

A man who changed the world for the better!



SIMPLY THE BEST



February 10, 2015

7:00 pm

277 King St.
Amherstburg, Ontario

ADMISSION IS FREE



DOCUMENTARY DVD AVAILABLE AT
WORKERSHISTORYMUSEUM.CA





February 2

W. A. McCormick is the county warden. The reeves since 1842 are: John Ferriss (1842-44, 1861, 1862); John Wright (1845-47 an 1889); Peter Wright (1850, 1855); Cornelius Wright (1851-54); John Brush (1856-59, 1866-67; 1870-72); Francis Wright (1860); Joseph Knapp (1863); Matthew Ferriss (1864-65, 1869); George McLean (1868); John C. Iler (1873-79, 1883); Peter Wright (1880-82, 1884-89); John Richmond (1890); Sol Baltzer (1891-94); A. R. Ferriss (1895-96); W. A. McCormick (1907-15); Captain Bassett (1912-13).

A whole lot of honorary vice presidents - F. H. Ferriss, S. Baltzer, A. Munger, W.R. Boyce, C. Clark, C. Pigeon, A.C. Cunningham. Patrons are A.B. Herring, Fred T. Wright, W.A. Sparling, A.E. Wright, W.R. Quick, W. G. Wright, Roy Wright.

The purpose is to control all sports, and work for a clubhouse, a skating rink, a swimming pool, and a baseball league to include Amherstburg, Harrow, Leamington and Ruthven.

February 15

A Dramatic and Athletic Association meeting was held, with John Munger in the chair. T. B. Adams was secretary. Officers: Hon. Pres. T. B. Adams; Pres. F. E. Richardson; Vice Pres. C. W. Webster; Manager Dr. J. D. Collins; Executive Committee- T. B. Adams, John Munger, C. W. Cornwall and Otto L. Ferriss; secretary treasurer W. T. Carthew; Dramatic Supervisor J. H. Madill.

February 26

The south side of the Martin Agla farm was bought by Charles Clark, then sold to Jason Snider at \$100 per acre.

Walker Tofflemire purchased the Arner store from T. W. Wride who is going into the ministry.

What to Do with Unwanted Heirlooms?

- by Ted Steele, HEIRS Director

As we grow older, our collection of family treasures grows as well; photos, trophies of past successes, baby shoes, with items of importance (or interest) to *fewer* people all the time. A family member was upset not long ago when World War 2 memorabilia was declared to be “war junk”, and was told to get rid of it.

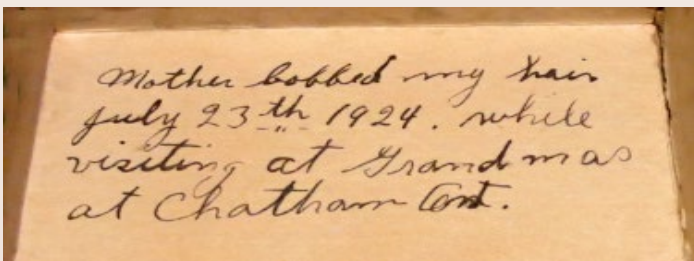
It can be very difficult to discard or destroy such items, but what are the alternatives?

Yard sales usually return far less than the value of the item, in your eyes. What is a priceless treasure to you, may bring only 20 cents.

One possibility - scan or photograph these special items & add them to your computer files. The memory is preserved in a small space & perhaps the item itself can be disposed of, or given away.

The item itself may suggest a plan...

I was given a small box not long ago. A relative of mine had kept it for years, & had no family member to give it to, except me. The box contained 8 beautiful long “ponytails”, with a note indicating that they were clipped from my cousin’s mother in 1921, as she became a teenager.



I was told that hair does not decompose at all, so I contacted the Canadian Cancer Society, who put me in contact with the ‘Pantene Beautiful Lengths’ group that collects hair for wigs for cancer patients. This 94-year old box of hair will now go to help a cancer patient feel a little better about themselves. Beautiful!



I was also given a large & heavy wood toolbox, hand-made & used by my cousin. The box is marked Dain Co., which was bought by John Deere in 1911. The box is over 100 years old & has tools from that era too. It is the size and weight of a small coffin - ***so what do I do?***



John Deere (at various levels) was not interested. I am now looking potentially at donating it to a local museum - perhaps the Historic Village on the Arner Town Line, or the Kingsville Military Museum which also has a collection of old tools & everyday items. It is a special item no doubt, but is of no use to me (unless I were to refinish the box).

The “war junk” mentioned earlier has remained with me. I am slowly putting a scrapbook together, with much scanning, & know that a few local museums & genealogy groups want a copy. The goal is to find these items a home where they can be appreciated.

If you are similarly “stuck”, ask us at HEIRS and we may be able to help. We are not a museum, but do want to help preserve your past!

FAMILY DAY OPEN HOUSE

CLIMB YOUR FAMILY TREE!!!!

**The Kent Branch of the Ontario
Genealogical Society and the
Chatham Kent Public Library
invite you to tour our family
history collections.**



Saturday

February 14, 2015

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Chatham Branch,
Chatham-Kent Public
Library 2nd floor**

Hours of Operation: September to June (excluding December)

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

Memberships Due: May 2014 to April 2015: \$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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