

H.E.I.R.S. newsletter

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society



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Harrow & Colchester South
Community Centre (Arena Bldg.)



ESSEX HONOUR ROLL GREAT WAR

1914

1918

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|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| ALLISON, STANLEY | ELFORD, OSCAR | *JOYCE, D. | MCGUGAN, JOHN | RANSOM, ARTHUR | TACKABERRY, H. |
| AULD, W. ALLEN | *FAROUGH, NORMAN | KENDRICK, MISS A. | MESTON, HAROLD | *RAYMONT, FRANK | TAYLOR, FRANK E. |
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* INDICATES SUPREME SACRIFICE

DEDICATED NOV. 11TH 1929

Inside this Issue...

October Meeting:
100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WW1 - local stories

Newsletter News!

Welcome to the October issue of the HEIRS newsletter.

With Fall colours now on their way in earnest this month, it's seems a shame that most of our early ancestors didn't have full colour photographs available to reflect upon during the cold winter nights.

Yes, there were some early hand coloured pix, but for the most part they focused on rosy cheeks, blond hair and eye colour not the background splendour of Fall. Both types of photos are nice... just different.

With that said, be sure you take every chance you can to snap more family pictures in the pumpkin patches, and along walking trails, showing all the colours of the season as you see fit for the backdrop.

See you out there!



October Meeting

When: Thursday, October 23rd, 1:30 PM

Where: Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Centre

Our October meeting, the last one before Remembrance Day, will mark the 100 year anniversary of the beginning of World War 1.

HEIRS president Richard Herniman and director Ted Steele will take a look at its causes, and highlight the local servicemen and women who served in the conflict. It was during this struggle that Canadian forces proved themselves equal to any others, and gained the respect of all nations. As well, we will include those service people, men and women, from the Essex County area who served in World War 2, both those who returned and those who did not. HEIRS has in its files, information and photos of some of these who served their country; you may find a family member's information and possibly even a wartime photo. The last Canadian veteran of WW 1, John Babcock, died not long ago, and few veterans of WW 2 are still with us.

Everyone is welcome to join us, as we will pause and remember, and give thanks.

LEST WE FORGET ••• REMEMBRANCE DAY

Saturday, November 11, 1995

From the *Amherstburg Echo*, June 11, 1942:
P. O. ROSS BALTZER OF HARROW REPORTED MISSING

"Just shortly after he was promoted to the rank of Pilot Officer, Ross L. Baltzer was reported missing Monday. The message was contained in a telegram to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Baltzer which stated that he had been missing after the raid on Essen last week. Ross has been in some of the most spectacular bombing raids of the war and because of his splendid work was given his commission. He enlisted in September 1940 and went overseas in August of last year. His squadron was one of the first to attack the fleeing German warships when they escaped from their French channel ports.

After the raid on Essen over a week ago, which succeeded the history-making smashing of Cologne, it was reported in despatches from England that he had piloted a bomber in the attack.

There has been no reason to give up hope entirely and it is the prayer of all here that

he will turn up safely in the near future."

From the *Amherstburg Echo*, December 17, 1942:
REPORTED DEAD

"Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Baltzer have received official notice from Ottawa that their son Pilot Officer Ross Baltzer, who was previously reported missing, is now presumed dead for official purposes. Pilot Officer Baltzer was reported missing on June 8 after the raid on Essen."

From the *Amherstburg Echo*, April 26, 1945:
TWO HARROW BOYS KILLED IN ACTION

Max Wright and James C. Monk

"The people of Harrow were saddened Wednesday morning when it became known that two local soldiers had been killed in action in the European Theatre of war. The boys were Max M. Wright, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Wright and James C. Monk, son of Arthur Monk. The wires came through early in the morning and soon the tragic news spread amongst a sorrowing town.

Max Wright, 31, was the

eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Wright. He was born in Harrow, attended the Harrow Public School and spent most of his life in town. He enlisted in the Essex Scottish Regiment three years ago and arrived in England in May 1943. He went to France in July 1944, and was wounded on the 31st of that month. Before enlisting he did carpenter work in Harrow and vicinity and before that time was employed by W. Clark Ltd. He leaves to mourn his loss, his mother and father, one sister, Margaret on the staff of the Harrow Branch of the Imperial Bank of Canada and two brothers, Flying Officer Robert Wright, serving with the R.C.A.F. overseas and James at home. James also enlisted but was not accepted into the armed services.

Trooper Monk

James C. Monk enlisted in the armed services in 1942 and spent some time in Western Canada before returning to the Woodstock Driving School for further training. He went overseas in March 1943. He first joined the Royal Canadian Regiment and later transferred to the Oxford Rifles. He served in Italy and on the Western Front. He was wounded in September 1944 but remained with his unit and was again wounded in December of the

same year. He leaves to mourn his loss, his wife, the former Dorothy Ferriss; his father, mentioned above, and one sister, Mrs. Philip Cousins of Leamington.

At the time of his enlistment he was employed by the Ford Motor Company of Canada and prior to that time spent four years in the employ of William Murdoch."

From the *Amherstburg Echo*, March 22, 1945:
HARROW SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION

"The sad news was received in Harrow Monday that Private Ray McCarthy, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles McCarthy, had been killed in action while fighting with the Canadian troops in Germany. He went overseas in January of this year.

The young soldier is survived by his wife, the former Genevieve Dufour of Malden; his mother and father mentioned above, one sister, Ethel (Mrs. Carlyle Brush) and three brothers, Delbert, Carl and Roger.

He was born in Colchester and attended school at S.S. #3 Colchester South. For a time he was employed as a truck driver for the Harrow Farmers Co-operative Association in Harrow."

From the *Amherstburg Echo*, April 12, 1945:

HONOR MEMORIES OF HARROW HEROES

"During the past week memorial services were held for two Harrow heroes who gave their lives while fighting with the Canadian Army overseas.

On Sunday evening services for Private Ray McCarthy were held in St. Andrew's Church. He was killed in action in Germany March 8. Rev. J. H. Smith conducted the service and present were many of his friends and members of the Colchester Branch of the Legion. During the service Charles Brush sang "When on My Day of Life." Private McCarthy was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles McCarthy of Harrow.

Tuesday morning memorial services were held in St. Anthony Church in memory of Trooper Anthony DeVreker, who gave his life while attached to the Canadian Armoured Division in Holland. Tony had been awarded the Military Medal for outstanding bravery in action. He was the son of Mrs.



Trooper Anthony DeVreker, recipient of the Military Medal for bravery in action, died March 30, 1944.

Henry DeVreker. Services were conducted by Rev. Remi Durrand, assisted by Rev. J. Spratt of Amherstburg and Rev. Doll of Kingsville. Present were his many friends, the students of the Harrow Public and High Schools, trustees, teachers and members of the Colchester Branch of the Canadian Legion. The legion members formed a guard of honour. During the service business places in Harrow were closed."

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DEDICATED NOV. 11TH 1929

On September 25th, HEIRS met to hear Bob Swaddling speak on the Spitfire fighter plane of WW 2, and of his connection with the Billing family over the last 40 years. Gerry Billing, a local Essex area resident was a decorated "Ace" pilot during the war, was shot down several times, & returned home to this area safely.

In the '60s, '70s & '80s, he flew a Spitfire in air shows, helped to train pilots & loved nothing more than the chance to fly over his home town. For much of that time, Bob Swaddling, a close family friend, was a mechanic who helped keep Gerry in the air.

Bob informed us of the evolution of the Spitfire, and how, unaccountably, their model numbers did not run chronologically. Thus, a Spitfire Mark 14 could be an older model than a Mark 9. **Military logic?** Erik Billing, Gerry's son, was also with us, and added family insights to Gerry's career. Both Erik and Bob are prime movers of the Essex Memorial Spitfire Committee, which began in January, 2014 to gather support for a Spitfire Memorial.

As we know, they were able to fundraise, obtain the replica, accelerate its arrival by years, & have it mounted in place during September - an incredible feat, for which the committee is to be greatly commended. **Bob educated us, made us chuckle, & also brought awareness of a quiet hero in our midst - Gerry Billing.**



Left: Erik Billing

Centre: Bob with HEIRS member Connie Corlett

Right: Spitfire in war time colours



In memoriam

Barbara Reese Munger passed away September 19th, 2014, at the age of 93.

Barbara and Jack Munger were married for 69 years, when he died in 2011. She was a founding member, and lifelong member, of HEIRS and served as treasurer for 7 years. Her grandfather, William Reese, brought bus service to Harrow in the 1920s, and her father was a WW1 veteran. The family has remained here ever since.

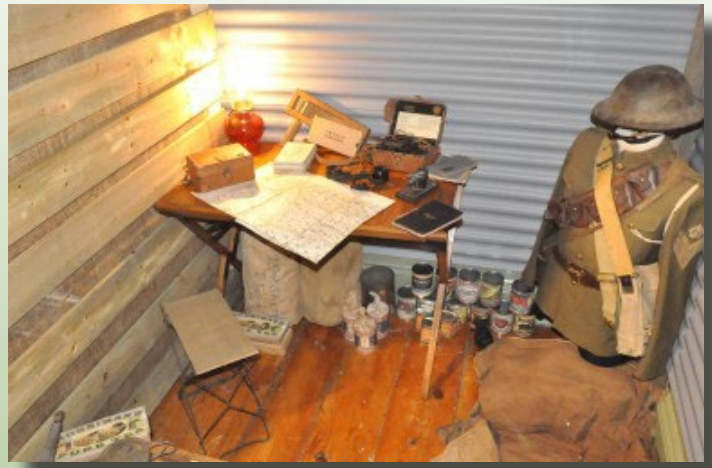
Barbara was an active member until recent months, and she will be missed.

6 Upcoming Events

The Park House Museum in Amherstburg

- extended the World War 1 exhibit offered until Remembrance Day

An entire upper floor features what life was like for soldiers in 1914. Weapons of the era, uniforms, maps, a large mock-up of the “trenches” used for protected troop movement, and much more is recreated. The role of local servicemen is emphasized, their regiments & battles, plus the role of women in the war effort. Part of the exhibit shows items of interest, depicting the German war experience- both sides lost many young men.



The museum is open 7 days a week, from 10 AM to 4 PM, and cost is very reasonable... \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors, \$2.50 for kids 12 years and up.

During October, the North American Black History Museum in Amherstburg is hosting an exhibit honouring the Tuskegee Airmen, the black servicemen & women of World War 2. Many members will remember Lt. Colonel (retired) Alexander Jefferson, who spoke to HEIRS about his experiences as a Tuskegee Airman pilot, a few years ago.

The Airmen consisted of pilots, bombardiers, instructors, maintenance crews and support staff, all vital to the operation of the unit. The exhibit itself is multi-media, with photos loaned to the museum & is a very interesting bit of not-so-long-ago history, well worth taking a look at.



Saturday, November 8, from 9 Am to 2 PM, you can learn to make a “Pine Needle Basket”, a small round basket of natural pine needles using the “coil” method of basket weaving. Cost here is \$40 per person. To register, contact Kris at kives@erca.org or call the Homestead itself. Learn an almost forgotten skill and design your own one-of-a-kind basket too!



October 2

This Echo writer again asks why Harrow has no Volunteer Fire Brigade, organized and ready for duty.

The pickle season has ended; the salting station has justified expectations. It received 12 000 bushels and paid out some \$7,000 for crop alone. Six cars have been shipped to Leamington, and there are yet 13 cars in the tanks, plus 20 cars of dills to ship.

October 16

Corwin McGorman, employed as an auto repairer in McDonald and Son's Garage, had a serious accident when he burned his hand.

October 30

Town Hall is too small to have a paying audience for any ambitious form of entertainment. It needs rebuilding, or could be sold, allowing for a move to a site nearer uptown.



Trustees are arranging for the constyruction of a cement block fire hall on McAfee Ave., and this will probably stir the citizens to forming a proper fire brigade.

J. H. Madill purchased the old metal clad building and moved it to the rear of his own lot to use as a garage and store house.



Courtesy Marsh Collection, Amherstberg

A PROBLEM IN GENEALOGY

A letter written to the Border City Star, fore-runner to the Windsor Star, in January 1932.

It was penned by Mr. Lewis Wigle, former MP for Essex South, In his 87th year:

"I saw a picture in the Star, of Mr. And Mrs. E. D. Scratch of Kingsville. who recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. As they are both closely related to me, I thought I would give you a description of their relationship.

Mr. Scratch's grandfather, Peter Scratch, was my grandmother's brother, and Mr. Scratch's grandmother was my grandfather's sister. Mr. Scratch's father was my father's first cousin, and my second cousin. Mrs. Scratch's grandmother, Aunt Judy Malott, was my mother's sister.

Mrs. Scratch's grandfather, Solomon Iler, was my grandfather. His mother was a sister to Aunt Judy Malott, who was the grandmother of Mrs. Scratch, and John J. Malott was the son of Aunt Judy Malott and the father of Mrs. Scratch, and was my first cousin and my uncle because he married my mother's sister.

The late Watson Coatsworth, who was clerk of Gosfield South Council for over 20 years, was a son of Joseph Coatsworth, who was a brother of my Grandmother Iler, who was Mrs. Scratch's grandmother. Mr. Watson Coatsworth's mother was my father's sister, who was a sister of Aunt Judy Malott who was the grandmother of Mrs. Scratch, and also was my aunt.

*My mother, Ann Iler, was the oldest daughter of Solomon Iler, who was the grandfather of Mrs. Scratch and also my grandfather. Aunt Hannah Malott was my mother's sister and Mrs. Scratch's mother. **The puzzle is to find out what relation he is to me.**"*

This mixing of families is of course the result of settling in a region which began with a small number of distinct family groups, and thus one's choice of a mate was somewhat limited.

Essex County in the early 1800s was comprised of 30 or so families, and this meant that each family connected with most others within a generation or two.

To those beginning their genealogical search now, there are a host of entirely new stumbling blocks and brick walls to be overcome, which is of course the assistance which HEIRS has to offer.

It has been said that, "If you don't know who your parents were, uncovering your family tree will be difficult". In the past, government bureaus and Church offices recorded most births, deaths and marriages, and these, along with land deeds and census roles, allow a determined researcher to peel back the layers of time and put their family's generations in place.

However, as our world continues to change, relationships become increasingly short term, and multiple partners become more frequent. In addition, the development of sperm banks and artificial insemination raise serious paternity issues. Adding to the difficulties are "same sex marriages", which blurs the father / mother designations.

Many children of today will have great difficulty (in my opinion) in even beginning to go back through their family trees.

A recent news story told of a young couple with 3 children, who began their family tree research. They quickly learned that each of them was the product of a sperm bank donation - and they did indeed have the same donor / father.

For anyone whose family has not been traced and recorded in some form, it seems that now would be a good time to get it under way.

The future seems to be much less traceable, so put your own past history in place without having to resort to DNA testing - still a slow and expensive methodology.

Can HEIRS help you get your research started?



Left to right... Zilla Wigle (married Judson Scratch), Byron Wigle (married Alice Maude Mary Broadwell), Rosina Wigle (married Charles Quick), Cornelia Wigle (married Lawson Ulch), Michael Wigle (son of John Wigle and Susanna Kratz – daughter of Leonard Kratz and Mary Munger), Jane Margaret Crow (daughter of Joseph Crow and Ann Wilcher).

Hours of Operation: September to June (excluding December)

Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM - 3PM, Wednesday 9 - Noon. Please call for appointments for other times.

**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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