

Vol. 7 – September 2012

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...
September's visit to the
historic Snider House

Fun, Fun Summertime!

Welcome back from the summer newsletter hiatus. As with all summers, lots of events in our region have concluded, with lots of good memories, picnics, barbeques and other great reasons to eat too much.

During the summer break we once again were assisted at HEIRS by two summer students.

Thanks goes out for the community support from our local residents, and with grant assistance, HEIRS was fortunate to have these two young ladies help keep our facility operating through the summer.



Shown are Andrea Leslie (above) & Katherine Maag, (left) who worked diligently all summer on a myriad of tasks, as well as assisting HEIRS members with specific research.

Our pasta dinner fund-raiser enables HEIRS to accomplish this, and we thank those who buy tickets & show their support in various ways.

Newsletter News!

Over the next few newsletters you may notice a few subtle changes. Thanks to your positive comments, we are motivated to continue to bring you the latest events and happenings for those interested in genealogy study and discovery for Harrow and the surrounding region.

Thanks to your feedback, we have increased the type size for article text to make it an even more enjoyable read. And with the help of our members who submit their family inquiries to the office, provide interesting local information resources, and of course images to be archived, by digital or other means our PDF edition requests have grown significantly. In order to minimize our printing and mailing cost consider asking for just the digital copy. We'll send it right to your inbox and as you may have seen it is colourful, with lots of images to help display the people and events that are newsworthy. **Keep the comments coming in!**

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

Where: Harrow-Colchester Arena
Community Centre & Snider House

After a short meeting at 1:30 PM in the Harrow-Colchester Arena community room, HEIRS members are invited to go to the Snider House for a guided tour of this historic building, hosted by the Dowling family, its present owners.

Many of the original families of Essex County were refugees from the American Revolution. Some had supported Britain and had to leave the American territory.

Others were brought here as captives of various Indian tribes, and had been traded for goods and weapons. Still others came to escape the fighting and take advantage of the free land being offered by the Crown.

One of these was John Snider, from Pennsylvania. He built his home just west of Harrow, and stories are told of the workers on the roof of the house hearing the cannon fire from the battle of Lake Erie on Sept. 10, 1813. Today it is the oldest house to have survived the years, and has been lovingly restored, (with minimal intrusions made for plumbing and lighting).

It's a great opportunity to see & enjoy this 200-year old treasure that is truly "one of a kind".



River Canard Bridge

A memorial gathering took place this summer, just where the River Canard Bridge crosses & leads into Amherstburg.

The first fighting of the 1812 war occurred here. The first shots were fired and the first casualties were suffered. An American invasion force surprised two Canadian sentries named Hancock & Dean.



In a short-lived fight, Hancock was killed and Dean wounded & captured, though nearly bludgeoned by an invader. An American officer intervened, respecting the bravery of the two. The invaders were driven back across the Detroit River later, but the war of 1812 had begun.

A local initiative has begun to name the bridge the Hancock and Dean Memorial Bridge; on July 16, local re-enactors, First Nations members, Shaymus Gunn (the Storyteller), local dignitaries & others gathered to learn the facts & salute Hancock and Dean's memory with musket fire, and to keep history alive in Essex County.

Roots to Boots

On August 3rd to 5th, Amherstburg hosted the "Roots To Boots" festival, a full-blown extravaganza commemorating the 100th anniversary of the War of 1812.

Those attending were treated to musket displays, a battle re-enactment, an 1812 musical written for the occasion, plus a concert by Chantele Kreviatzik.

Most participants were in full costume, two sets of First Nations dancers demonstrated their skill and taught us their culture.

As well, stilt-walking versions of Brock and Tecumseh entertained the large enthusiastic crowd. Events were spread out with minimal overlap, so it was easy to pick your interests and see all you wanted to take in over the three days.

Amherstburg put on a great show, and made Essex County history come alive.





A Pilgrimage of Love

A 208 page book, compiled by Sister Antoinette Bezaire, & Sister Yvonne Bezaire. She earned university credits in teaching, medical records library technician, and was keenly interested in history and genealogy.

This book is part of her years of research, not only on her family roots, but she also spent much time on the history of her order, the Grey Nuns. The first half is a historical & biographical listing of family members, beginning with Jacques Bezer, the family's 1st Canadian ancestor, having arrived in 1760. Mixed within vital statistics are pictures & detailed stories of certain family members. The index of family comprises the 2nd half of the book.

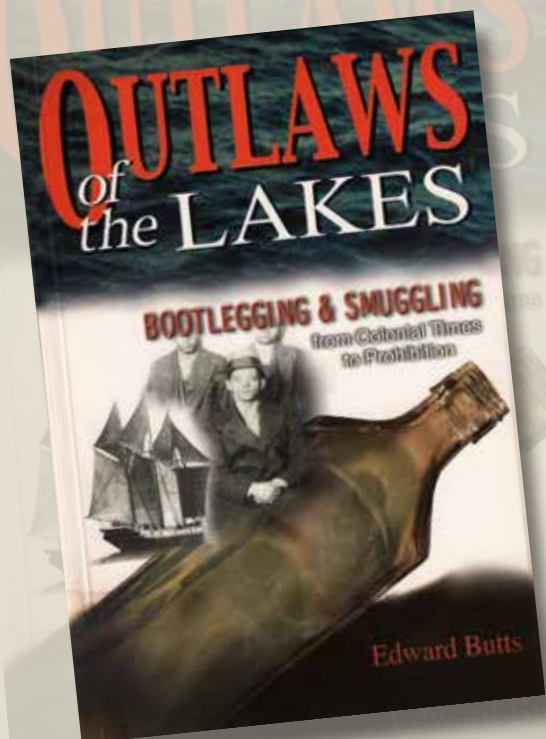
To anyone looking for the lineage of this family this book will be a gold mine of information.

Outlaws of the Lakes

Outlaws of the Lakes, a paperbound book of 266 pages, is richly illustrated with black and white photos from the Prohibition era, telling how smuggling was done, how rival gangs eliminated their enemies, and much more.

The careers and lives of Al Capone, Bugsy Moran, Pretty Boy Floyd and others are outlined, as well as the violent deaths met by most of these mob members.

As a border city, Windsor is of course deeply connected to this story; Hiram Walker and other locals figure prominently in the illicit activities. It was a very interesting, albeit violent time in our history.



J. R. Park Homestead

Meet the Dog Breeds

Sept. 16: 10 AM

Harvest Locavore Lunch

Sept. 30; tickets \$25 in advance only.
Supports the Park House activities.

Harvest Moon and Meteors

Oct. 20: tickets \$15

Contact Park Homestead at:
www.erca.ca.org or call 519-738-2029.
Or by email at jpvh@erca.org.

War of 1812 Local History Lecture & Tour

Sept 21 & 22: starting at Mackenzie Hall
in Windsor.

Dan Loncke speaks and leads the bus
tour exploring 1812 sites. More details at
[www.cityofwindsor.ca/residents/Facilities-
forRent/Mackenzie-Hall-Cultural-Centre/
Pages/default.aspx](http://www.cityofwindsor.ca/residents/Facilities-forRent/Mackenzie-Hall-Cultural-Centre/Pages/default.aspx)

Boblo Island

Sept. 22 & 23: will see a First Nations' encampment on the south end of Boblo Island, with replica canoes, natives and voyageurs in full costume. This will depict the life of an 1812 native village in day-to-day activities. Access will be by ferry from Amherstburg, for which there is a charge.

Presented by the Provincial Marine and Skanawati First Nation.

Phantoms of River Canard

Continues through to Oct 28th:
Saturdays & Sundays at 7 PM.

An entertaining historical play that includes a walk-about in historical cemeteries and a

canoe trip on River Canard, where the first shots of 1812 were fired, early First Nations and more. Presented by the River Canard Canoe Company...reservations required.

The 201 Region 1 Annual Meeting of the Kent branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society

Oct. 20 (9AM to 4PM), St Andrews Residence on Park Street, Chatham

Topics include Women of the War of 1812, The British Army from 1660 to 1815, A Walpole Island Perspective on 1812, and more. Cost is \$30 per person; contact www.ogs.on.ca/kent for more information or to register.

Thamesville Corn Maze

RR#5, 12768 Longwoods Rd. (Hwy. 2),
Thamesville Fridays 6-10PM, Saturdays
10AM-10PM, Sundays 1PM-5PM

Giant corn maze shows a full-body likeness of Tecumseh, the Shawnee leader who united a First Nations confederacy & died during the War of 1812.

Ken & Ingrid Dieleman 519 692-5451
[www.themaize.com/stiesphp?username
=canthamesville](http://www.themaize.com/stiesphp?username=canthamesville)



Corn season is coming to a close, so people are encouraged to come out before the maize is "lost" in history.



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.

Cheryl Bailey is looking for a photo of her great-grandmother Christine Fox, born 1828, daughter of Henry Fox and Catherine Ulch, died 1908. She married Peter Iler, born Sept 10, 1832, son of John D. Iler and Susannah (Ann) Wigle. Their children were Wilson, Gordon, Calvin and Martha.

Christine Johnson, from Michigan, requested any information on the HALSTEAD family of the Harrow/Colchester area. Our summer students, Andrea and Katharine, were able to supply much information and even family photos from the HEIRS files. Another researcher on her way to finding her roots with HEIRS help.

Andrea G has requested and received information on the role of women in the

society of the early 1900s. HEIRS is happy to assist many people doing research for school, or for books in progress.

Shirley Taylor has requested information on ancestor Daniel Showers Aikman, born 1824, especially pertaining to his burial location. HEIRS advised her that several family members are interred at Colchester, but we could not give a definite location for Daniel himself.

Theresa from Ohio has contacted HEIRS to research the CONWAY and HATFIELD families in this area, specifically one Pearl Conway, who died in the Amherstburg area in or about 1950. Please contact HEIRS if you can help with this search.

United Empire Loyalists, Bicentennial Branch Quarterly Newsletter: - Attributed to Chief Tecumseh

“So live your life that the fear of death can never enter your heart. Trouble no one about their religion; respect others in their view, and demand that they respect yours. Love your life, perfect your life, beautify all things in your life. Seek to make your life long and its purpose in the service of your people. Prepare a noble death song for the day when you go over the great divide.

Always give a word or sign of salute when meeting or passing a friend, even a stranger, when in a lonely place. Show respect to all people and grovel to none.

When you arise in the morning, give thanks for the food and for the joy of living. If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies only in yourself. Abuse no one and no thing, for abuse turns the wise ones to fools and robs the spirit of its vision.

When it comes your time to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with the fear of death, so that when their time comes, they weep and pray for a little more time to live their lives over again in a different way. Sing your death song and die like a hero going home.”

September 5th

A large stable has been built by Ebenezer Ferriss on the rear of his Queen Street lot.

Dr. Campeau now owns the Harrow Drug Store, while E. F. Darby continues to do the dispensing.

A perambulating photograph gallery on the back of a bicycle and hailing from Duart, near Ridgetown, has been turning out photographs of all kinds of people along the front from Comet eastward.

Hiram Walker and Sons have decided to grow cranberries on their big marsh on the Marshfield farm. The marsh is being covered with gravel in the depth of 4 inches. Gravel is being brought in by train over their railway from the gravel pit between Ruthven and Leamington.

The cornerstone of the new AME Zion Church was placed at Sackville.

The new lodge at Harrow installs it's officers. Names mentioned are T. T. George, A. L. Ferriss, W. J. Rosebrugh, C. Thompson, A. Wright, W. G. Baldwin, T. R. Flood, A. E. Sinasac, S. Hughson, F. Rosebrugh, S. W. Atkins, T. H. Ferriss, Al Huffman.

September 24th

A dinner will be given at Charles Renaud's hotel in Sackville... a good meal for 25 cents.

Straith and McDonald of Windsor have finally decided to put a stock of dry goods into the building formerly occupied by Charles H. Knapp at Harrow.

September 25th

A committee will canvas for support of founding a Mechanics' Institute (this a forerunner of a public library), and reading room in Harrow.

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.



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: September 2012 to August 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 May (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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