



Vol. 8– Nov. / Dec. 2020

HEIRS

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society

n e w s l e t t e r



Stay Warm...

Stay safe!

Welcome to the November / December 2020 newsletter.

The end of 2020 cannot come fast enough for most of us.

Lauded as a new decade of hope, it quickly dissolved into the world-wide pandemic that we've been forced to deal with, each & every day. For many, this has meant finding new ways to amuse ourselves & our families. For me, I've discovered painting. Not only does it provide a creative outlet, it passes time – time away from news reports of social unrest, political bickering and oh yeah... the pandemic.

Here's one from what I sarcastically call... my 'Covid Creative' period.

Email us to share how you are coping or to share your own creative endeavours.

Please find a way to enjoy peace & joy during this holiday season.

- Rick McCormick



Rick McCormick
Morning Skate

© Rick McCormick

Good news from the Board of Directors...

HEIRS is pleased to advise that members who have paid their 2020 dues, will have their 2021 dues covered automatically.

Those members who have not paid their 2020 dues yet are NOT behind in dues in any way, but WILL need to pay their 2021 dues, by the usual May 1st deadline.

To help HEIRS, we encourage members to pay those 2021 dues early, as our operating costs continue, even though we are closed. **Thanks.**

More good news... Until elections are held this Spring, Penny Horne & Jacqueline Baldwin have kindly volunteered to serve as directors. Thank you for stepping forward.

This year will go down as a "had to" year, as in... "I didn't think I could do that until I had to." It surely has not been easy, but still rewarding when we realize by accomplishing the "had to", it broadened our horizons.

Our hearts go out to those families & friends suffering losses this past year, with the hope that this Season is filled with fond memories of being together.

Be safe, make some fun, and we'll be in touch in the New Year.

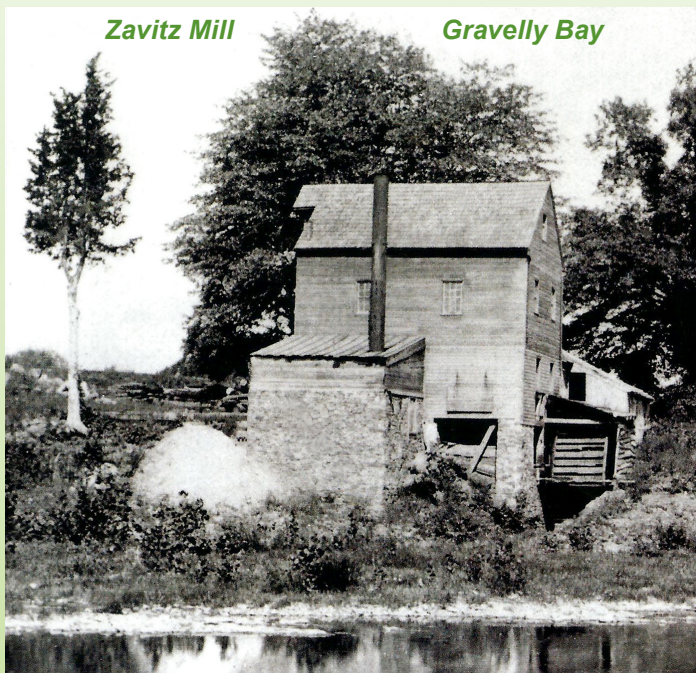
When exploring ancestors you may be making a big mistake... overlooking those who 'married' into the family tree.

I refer specifically to the Grandmothers several generations back. These ladies tended to lose their identities as their own last name was 'erased' & replaced by their husband's.

Often, a woman became "Mrs. John Smoot" or Mrs. W.F. Klarn with no first name provided for her. With full birth names known, surprising discoveries can be found. After all, your Great-Grandmother's family contributed to your own DNA too! **Have you looked into your female family side?**

My 'Steele line' covers 8 generations of fathers & sons in Canada. Luckily, their wives were most often identified. This allowed me to understand all that their line contributed to mine during my research. These women had important people in their family background.

My GGG-Grandmother was Elizabeth Zavitz. Her Grandfather Christian was an important builder of grist mills along the Lake Erie shoreline. Sadly, most were burned by invading Kentucky troops during the War of 1812.



My GG-Grandfather Christian married Martha Doan whose family was heavily involved in fighting as Loyalists during the American Revolution.

Currently, I am seeking to prove that she may link with Simon Girty's family, as an Adam Doan married an ancestor of Girty.



I traced my G-Grandmother to a Swiss family (Sherk) back to the 1620's & my Grandmother (Barnhart) to a German family, & UE as well.

Considering women as 'donors of DNA', I understand why my brother was puzzled when his Ancestry DNA kit revealed 52% German & only 21% Irish levels. Our original progenitor was Irish & we assumed we would be predominantly Irish. **Not so.** We each are a collection of DNA bits & pieces, with every generation before us contributing. He obviously got most DNA from various Central European family members - the Grandmothers of several generations. My own DNA (not yet analyzed) might reveal that I am 70 % Irish & 9 % German perhaps .

I've read of identical triplets being tested with their DNA results varying wildly. No, it doesn't indicate 'hanky panky', although occasionally this IS discovered! It's wide variance in DNA distribution within a family that makes us unique in our own way & yet different from even our closest kin. My brother Jim was 6 feet 5 inches, while I reached 5 feet 8 at my tallest. Jim had dark, Elvis like hair in his early years, mine was totally different. - Ted

In our first issues of the New Year, we will look at why DNA tests are vital in some cases, and review the leaders among DNA test kits.

The Amherstburg Echo.

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE COUNTY

Vol. XXX No. 15.

AMHERSTBURG, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1904.

Whole No. 2,474

100 ACRES FOR SALE.

In 2nd concession, Anderdon Township, about 4 miles from Amherstburg, 20 acres of bush, some small buildings.

For further particulars and price, see

FALLS BROS., Agts.,
Amherstburg.

LIME FOR SALE
IN
CARLOAD LOTS.

THE SOVEREIGN BANK OF CANADA.

HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO, ONT.

CAPITAL PAID UP \$3,000,000
SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS, 350,000
ASSETS, 50,000

H. S. HOLT, ESQ., President. D. M. STEWART, General Manager.

SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT.

Interest allowed on Deposits of \$1.00 and upwards at highest current rate. Farmers' Notes Discounted at lowest possible rates.

HARROW BRANCH. AMHERSTBURG BRANCH.

C. A. MacMAHON, Manager.

M. I. LANE, Manager.

LOST.

LOST—Strayed from my place, Vereker, on Sunday, Feb. 29th, a black white and tan English setter bitch, answering to the name "Lady". Finder will receive liberal reward by returning to me or on being notified I will go after her. A. F. HILLMAN, Vereker.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL.

Miss Wm. HANCOCK's condition keeps about the same.

MALDEN.

Ernest McGee, of Flint, Mich spent Sunday at home.

Mrs. Frank Hunt has been suffering from an attack of la grippe.

Win. Golden suffering from being attacked of influenza rheumatism.

Mrs. Alice McLean, of Windsor, is on her feet after being laid up for some time.

BROOKER vs. AMHERSTBURG.

Judge McHugh Refuses to Grant New Trial.

At the recent sittings of the Division Court in Amherstburg, Mrs. James Brooker sued the corporation of Amherstburg, for injuries sustained, alleged to have been due to a fall on a defective sidewalk. She was awarded \$20 and costs. The town, through their solicitors, DAVIS & DAVIS, applied for a new trial on the ground, of the plaintiff's alleged carelessness. The learned Judge refused to grant the appeal and the text of his decision is as below:

BROOKER vs. AMHERSTBURG.—Mr. Rough for Plaintiff, D. B. Davis for defendant. The action was tried before me at the last sitting of the Division Court at Amherstburg. It is brought by the plaintiff to recover damages for personal injuries sustained by the female plaintiff by falling on a sidewalk on Fort St. which the plaintiff alleges was a dangerous state of disrepair. It is opposed by counsel for the defendant that if the plaintiff has a good cause of action the damages claimed are less than they would be entitled to recover. The law requires a municipal corporation to keep its streets, and highways, under its control in repair and if it neglects to perform that duty the law provides that it shall be civilly responsible for all damages sustained by any person by reason of such neglect. The defendant corporation applies to set aside the judgment entered against it, on the ground that there is no evidence that the sidewalk in question was in a dangerous state at the time the accident occurred. I cannot see how it is possible to set aside the judgment in this case, as the evidence is clear that the sidewalk was in a dangerous state at the time the accident occurred. I therefore refuse to grant the application.

ANDERDON COUNCIL.

Saturday, Feb. 27th.

Council met in regular session with all members present. Moved by Messrs. Groulx and Cote, that the minutes just read be adopted.—Carried. Moved by Messrs. Volians and Cote, that Fred Paganu get a warrant for \$4 groceries furnished to the Veronesi.—Carried. Moved by Messrs. Cote and Volians, that Antoine Lenoir get a clearing ice from 60 and Wilbur Sutte bridge on south side of bridge. Moved by Messrs. Cote and Volians, that Isaac Groulx refund of dog tax.—Carried. Moved by Messrs. Cote and Volians, that Harold Wais get a side line in or for the water property. Moved by Messrs. Cote and Volians, that the water property be taken up. Moved by Messrs. Cote and Volians, that the water property be taken up.

BURK BROS.



December 3

Local Board of Health met at Dr. Collins office; Reeve Ferriss, Dr. Collins MOH, F E Richardson and Secretary Mr. Madill present. Provincial Board of Health will notify residents to remove their hogs to more sanitary quarters, in compliance with the law, and considered a menace to public health.

On instructions from Dr. McNally, Provincial Health Board, will enforce law regarding outside toilets and make it compulsory to obtain written permission from the MOH before establishing any cesspools or privy vaults locally, all toilets to be constructed according to law. No garbage or refuse to be deposited in any public or private locality without permission board, offenders to be prosecuted.

On petition of ratepayers, regarding the unsanitary drainage of our canning factory, Prov. Board of Health was notified and sent Dr. McNally to inspect drainage. He also inspected Harrow School and recommended many sanitary changes.

Mrs. Thomas Wright of Colchester spent a few days last week with her daughters, Mrs. E A Brown, Mrs. Roy Allen and Mrs. Martin Malott

December 4

To Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Jenner of Colchester South, a daughter

December 10

T B Adams disposed of the old post office building and site to McCallum and McVey for \$1500, as soon as the PO can be moved to its new location in the IOOF block, which will make an ideal office with good light and plenty of room, both for the public and the PO staff. The IOOF is to be congratulated in renting the entire bldg., so soon after buying the lease from the former tenant. Molson's Bank will occupy the corner, Mac Halstead, grocer, has taken the west side and the PO will occupy the Queen St. side north of the bank.

Article, "Early Preachers in the Wilds at Essex Had Great Hardships", by Rev H A Graham, pastor of Lincoln Rd Methodist Church:

The Methodist Church has 42 preaching places in the Windsor district that covers all of Essex county, & a small portion of Kent county. There

are 24 ministers and a membership of 8325.

The first minister of the Methodist church to visit these parts was the talented Nathan Bangs. It was Bishop Asbury who, having learned of the destitute and neglected state of the Thames country, as this area was then called, said to young Bangs, "You will go, my son". When conference was over in June, 1805, this brave soldier of the cross mounted his horse and started on his journey of over 600 miles. He had just \$15 in his pockets, and it was well for him that he met many friends even in those days in the scattered settlements.

He conducted services on his way and reached the banks of the Thames River 54 days after leaving the New York conference. He made his way through the then trackless forests to the scattered settlements of Essex County. Services were held in Tilbury, Romney, Gosfield, Colchester, Malden, Amherstburg, Sandwich and Detroit. Nathan Bangs received the magnificent salary of \$20 a quarter year.

A bundle of straw often was his bed, many a time cornmeal mush was his only food, and again, Indian bread and dried beef, while at night, on more than one occasion, his only shelter was that formed by the branches of a tree. Wherever this young herald of the cross preached the word, it came to many hearts with renewing power and during all these years, the Lord has not been without His witness in these communities.

There was much opposition as there always has been, but this young pioneer sowed the seed beside all waters and truly it has brought forth fruit. His first service was held at night in Detroit.

The hall was lighted with candles. During the meeting, a great thunderstorm arose and caused the early closing of the service. It was later found that the sockets of the candlesticks had been filled with gunpowder, so the early

closing saved the situation, as the expected explosion did not occur.

It was Nathan Bangs that first attempted to preach at Little York, as Toronto was then called. The meeting was held in a miserable half-furnished house on a weeknight. Only a few were present as there were not more than a half dozen houses in the place. This was the year 1802. (note: cannot be correct- he left NY 1805 to begin)

The next pioneer preacher who travelled this whole district as his circuit was William Case. We have before us a copy of a letter, which he wrote on May 16, 1810. In it he describes the moral conditions of the people of that day. Drunkenness, horse racing, gambling, and Sabbath desecration were everywhere present.

This did not in any way hinder Wm Case from boldly preaching the Gospel and calling on the people to repent and turn to God. Eighty members were added to the Church at what was then the New Settlement.

The splendid salary of \$80 per year was received and "as a preacher, I left \$10 on the circuit for the preacher who was to follow me, and took some financial assistance to the conference".

December 20

To Mr. and Mrs. Percy Golden (Madeline Scratch), of Gosfield South, a son

December 24

Nominations at Harrow very quiet, only 50 ratepayers assembled and only the names of the old council were placed in nomination. Police Village trustees F E Richardson, Andrew Brimner and J E Webster were also re-elected for 1921 without opposition.

Visions of (Loyalist) Sugar Plums

The following info is based on an essay by noted historian, researcher & author Stephen Davidson.

Stephen has written 700 articles on Loyalists & the American Revolution which give wonderful overviews of those times & the personalities who made history happen. Some time ago, I discovered this tale, written for the “Loyalist Trails” newsletter. With his permission we present our version and extend our appreciation for his own spirit of giving.

On December 24, 1783, the four year old son of an Anglican minister was preparing to celebrate Christmas in his home in Newtown, New York. It was the first Christmas free of war that little Clement Moore had ever known. The American Revolution that had sent his godfather into exile was now over.

After almost 40 such peaceful Christmases had been celebrated, Clement sat down and began to write a poem to amuse his own young children. “Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.”

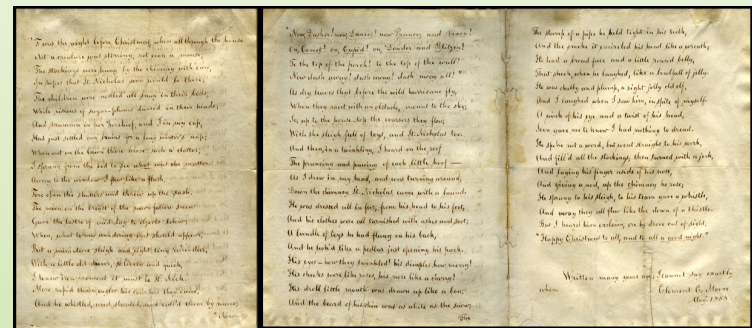
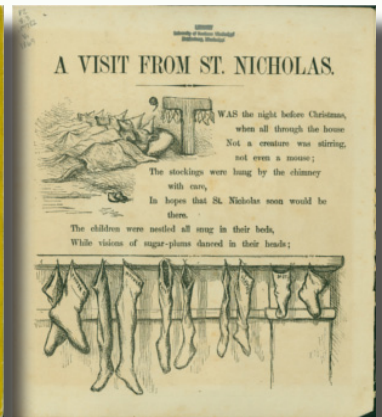
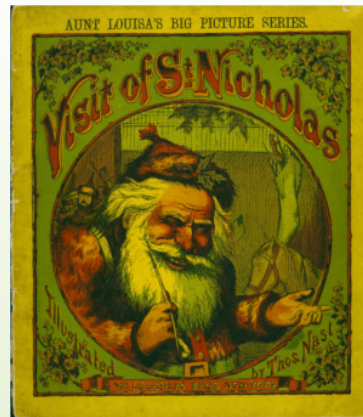
Beginning with this simple verse, it became the most famous of Yuletide poems.

Born into a loyalist family in the middle of the American Revolution, the young Clement would have heard much about (but understood very little of) the changing fortunes of the British army.

His parents entertained loyalist officers in their home; his father, the Rev. Benjamin Moore had led Anglican worship services for both the King’s soldiers & New York loyalists in the city.

But unlike the thousands of loyalist refugees who boarded evacuation ships to take them to sanctuary elsewhere in the British Empire, the Moore family decided to remain in New York at the end of the revolution.

Clement Clarke Moore became a Hebrew scholar and taught Oriental & Greek literature in Manhattan’s General Theological Seminary. Although he designed St. Peter’s Church, authored scholarly books, & founded New York’s Chelsea Square, it is the young Moore’s contributions to Christmas lore that have given him his place in history. Thanks to “A Visit from St. Nicholas”, we now assume that Santa Claus is a jolly fellow who dresses in red, is carried through the air by a sleigh drawn by eight reindeer, each being named by Clement.



Had Rev. Moore’s family followed his friend and fellow loyalist, Jonathan Odell to New Brunswick, it is unlikely that his son’s life would have followed the path it took in New York.

Clement's Christmas poem likely would never have been written.

However, the poem itself did eventually travel north. Clement enclosed "A Visit from St. Nicholas" in a letter to his refugee godfather. Today, Odell's copy can be viewed at the University of New Brunswick archives in Fredericton.

This poem, arguably the best-known verses ever written by an American, was first published anonymously in the *Troy Sentinel* (NY), Dec. 23, 1823. By 1837, it was formally attributed to Moore in a book of poetry. At first Moore had not wished to be connected with the popular verse, given his public reputation as a professor of ancient languages. By then, the original publisher & at least seven others had already acknowledged him as the author. Moore was said to have written the poem while visiting his cousin, Mary McVicker, at Constable Hall, in present day Constableville, NY.

Each year, Christmas cards, advertising, and school concerts borrow lines from Moore's poem to celebrate the season. One of the famous is the one with "the children nestled all snug in their bed, while visions of sugar plums danced in their heads".

Only the families of the upper classes would have been able to enjoy sugarplums during Clement Moore's younger days. Also known as confits or dragees, these candies were labour-intensive confectionary, taking days to create.

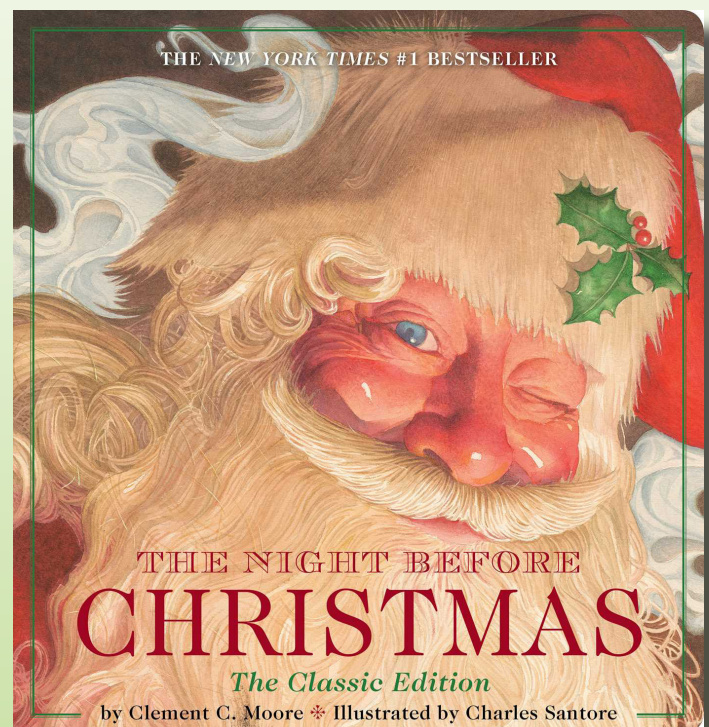
A pan of sugar-plums was kept in motion over consistent heat, while a layer of sugar was poured over them. This would harden, and another layer was added. This process continued until the desired size was reached.

West Indian cane sugar was used, and it required processing. First, dissolved in clean water, then boiled to a concentrate & cooled, to turn it into crystal form. Industries based on hot fires were at constant danger of burning down... a dangerous job much of the time.

During the Revolution, both sides used large sugar houses as prisons, holding large numbers of detainees. Some continued during wartime as sugar factories. Several 'sugar bakers' (as they were called) who fled to British safety, left all behind... their house, factory, farm implements, tools & their instruments for making sugar. Their former neighbours were happy to confiscate these immediately.

I know of no other references to sugar plums, so it shows the depth of its acceptance into our Christmas traditions, being referenced thousands of times each year as Moore's poem is read for another generation to enjoy.

Let's keep sugarplums dancing in our heads again, this year. - Ted.



History As It Used to Was...

- by Ted Steele, HEIRS Director

Our last issue featured part 2 of a series on the First Nations people of Canada. In this, the final instalment, I want to point out some more up-to-date events and people of this group, who have long been victims of unfairness and prejudice.

I want everyone to realize that the Inuit (formerly Eskimo) are a subgroup of indigenous people; they are unlike others tribes and did their part during WW 2, a time when rationing of scarce commodities was necessary, and recycling of many items provided badly needed items for re-use.

Old tires were recycled for their rubber, old newspapers for their pulp, rags, dandelion "parachutes" used for lining flotation devices, and bones as well as animal carcasses for use in aircraft glues, fertilizer and munitions.

Qapik Attagutsiak is now 99 years old, the last of her group to remember making her contribution to the Canadian war effort. She and others gathered bones, often with blood on them; carcasses were collected as well, often covered with maggots.



The work was disgusting, valuable and necessary. She now lives in Nunavit in a tent during warm weather and in a tent / igloo combination as winter sets in. She has now been declared a "Hometown Hero" by Parks Canada, and at long last thanked for her service. As she said, "We were terrified of the job, but it was worth it as long as we won."

Acting:

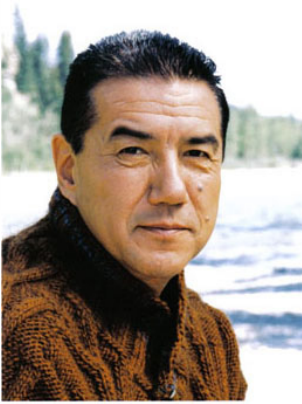
Jay Silverheels is a Canadian from the Six Nations reserve at Brantford who rose to fame in movies, especially playing Tonto on the long-running TV show, The Lone Ranger. (That's right, Kemo Sabe)



In later years, he has served as film advisor to ensure accuracy in depicting Native Americans.

Graham Greene is from the Oneida tribe, part of the Six Nations reserve in Ontario.

He has been nominated for an Academy Award, and is well known as Red Green's friend, Edgar Montrose, who always seemed to have dynamite... ready and eager to blow things up.



Music:

Shania Twain is of partial Cree heritage, and is of course now a superstar singer.

Robbie Robertson, well known musician with The Band, is of Mohawk ancestry.

Buffy Sainte-Marie is a Canadian Indian (native) who has made a successful career as a folk singer.

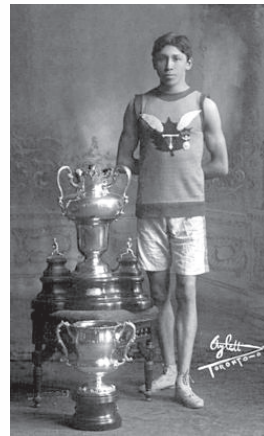
Sports:

Bryan Trottier played 18 years in the NHL and won the Stanley Cup with the New York Islanders. George Armstrong of the Toronto Maple Leafs was called Chief, because of his Irish/Algonquin heritage.



Other NHL players include: Jonathan Cheechoo, Rene Bourque and Ted Nolan, who broke racial barriers along the way.

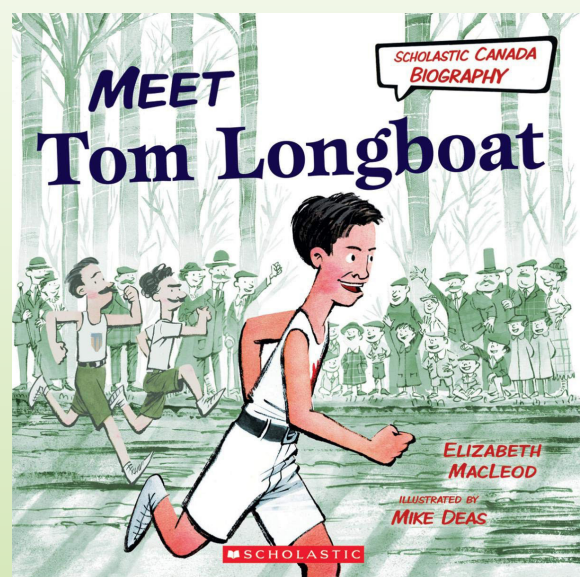
Tom Longboat was a distance runner; but that is like saying that Wayne Gretzky played hockey. Tom held every Canadian record from one mile to the marathon



He competed and won all over Europe and North America, including the Olympics.

In 1916, he volunteered for military service; he became a valuable dispatch carrier, delivering messages between posts.

He later served in a non-combat role in WW 2. He is a member of the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame and the Indian Hall of Fame, and to this day is a legend in his sport.



We all should make an effort to be more tolerant & understanding of our fellow Canadians, to appreciate each other and realize that contributions are made in many ways.

HEIRS RESOURCE CENTRE

Open September - June (December excepted)

Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM - 3PM

Call to confirm Wednesday or other appointments.

Newsletter

Published 9 times per year, in conjunction with General Meetings held on the 4th Thursday of the month, September to June, (December excepted).

Receive full colour newsletters by email, or a B&W print version by regular post. Simply provide your email or street address to our office.

Memberships

\$30 CDN / U.S. per person or couple.

Memberships run May 1st - April 30th, annually.

Send membership cheque to:

HEIRS PO Box 53, Harrow
ON, Canada N0R 1G0

Please include phone, postal address, email & family names you are now researching.

Non-member using Research Library

\$10 per visit (+ photocopy costs).

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Harrow & Colchester South
Community Centre (Arena Bldg.)

Phone 519 738-3700

Email hheritage@bellnet.ca

Website www.HEIRS.ca

Kudos go to Greg Harrison at The Computer Centre in Harrow, who provides HEIRS support for all things technical to help keep our office running smoothly.

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