

Vol. 9– November 2017

# HEIRS

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society

*newsletter*



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Community Centre (Arena Bldg.)



***Next meeting...***

*The Wrecks of the Pelee-Colchester Area*

## Newsletter News!

### Welcome to the November newsletter.

Our final newsletter in 2017 is here.

Seems like it was just summer a few weeks ago, but time moves along if you're busy or having fun, they say. (We must have been both.)

This month's meeting is looking like another HEIRS great event will return to our Resource Centre; more shipwreck stories and fascinating images from beneath the waves - this time even closer to home...

**See you at the meeting?**

## Next Meeting

**When: Thursday, November 23, 1:30 PM**

**Where: Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Meeting Room**

### Join us for a special presentation...

HEIRS' final meeting of 2017 happens to fall on American Thanksgiving Day this year.

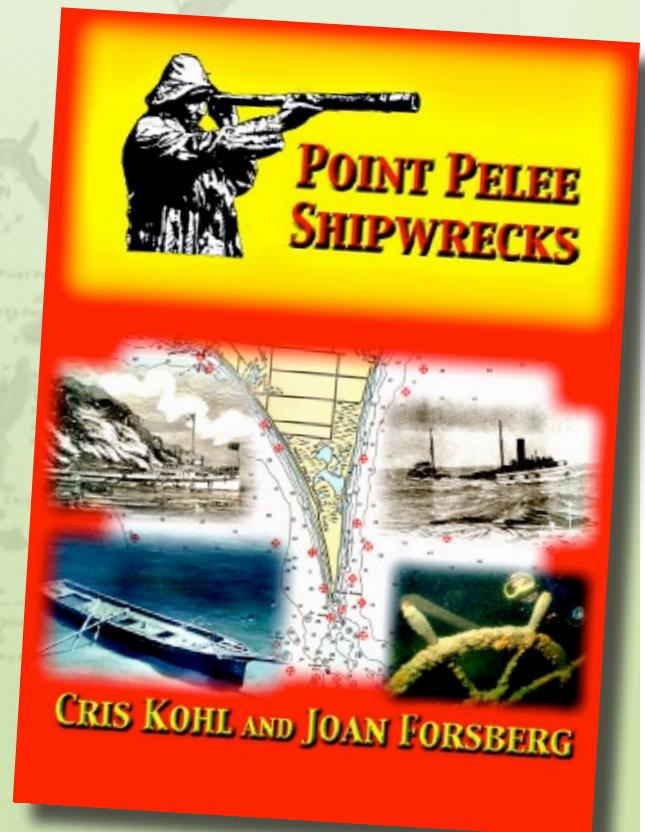
We meet this time to welcome speakers **Cris Kohl** and his wife, **Joan Forsberg**, two well-known Great Lakes Maritime historians.

They have explored many wrecks scattered on the bottom of our Great Lakes, & in other areas. Cris spoke to us in early 2016 on the search for La Salle's ship, the Griffon, missing for over 200 years, and we are very delighted that they are returning to HEIRS.

This time they will have a video presentation, "The Wrecks of the Pelee-Colchester Area", with many local history connections to Essex County.

Some of their DVDs & books on their diving adventures will be available for those starting their Christmas shopping at HEIRS.

**Don't forget that young people are always interested in shipwrecks too; you may find the perfect video for that finicky teen you know.**



**The October 26th meeting was special for a number of reasons.**

We were able to team up with the Essex Municipal Heritage Committee to present Doug Robinson (aka Seamus Gunn) as our speaker, and the meeting was held at 6:30 PM rather than our usual 1:30 PM start time.

We were very pleased to see a full house in attendance, as Seamus explained that he would be giving an inside history of the events leading up to Canada's Confederation, and promised that it would be anything but a series of dates and events.

In his usual light-hearted style, he introduced some of the leading characters in the story and made each of them come to life, warts & all.

Colonel John Prince, Arthur Rankin, George Brown, Georges Etienne Cartier and John A. MacDonald were some of these folks. Their clashing personalities made for interesting tales. No hero-worshipping here, (in true Canadian style), we learned of John A.'s legendary drinking escapades, the "alleged" bribes between Arthur Rankin and two

expanding railway companies, the rancor and personal animosity between George Brown and MacDonald, and more.

The way these dynamic personalities were able to come together and form a nation was explained in an entertaining style, with Seamus also boosting our national pride & patriotism along the way.

**HEIRS thanks the Essex Municipal Heritage Committee for allowing us to be part of the event. We look forward to future collaborations.**





## 4 Upcoming Events

### November

The Kingsville Historical Park Museum hosts “Remembering Red Beach”, honouring the men of the Essex Scottish Regiment.

Featured are artifacts, a virtual exhibit descriptions of events during and following the Dieppe raid, and also movements of the POWs.

They are also seeking photos, recollections and artifacts to enrich their collection and help them tell the story for the next generation. You can email them at [khpi@mnsi.net](mailto:khpi@mnsi.net) or telephone 519-733-2803. Open Monday to Saturday (except Wed.) from 9AM to 4PM and are located immediately adjacent to the Royal Canadian Legion in Kingsville, 145 Division Street South. **You will be surprised at the amount of materials on display at this amazing facility, well worth a visit.**

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### November 10

The Kent County branch of the OGS meeting topic will be “Researching and Deciphering Military Records”.

Len and Gabrielle Maynard are retired from military service, and will share their knowledge with all interested. The meeting is at 7 PM in the McKinlay Reception Centre, 463 St. Clair St. (Hwy 40 north) in Chatham.

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### November 11

The display, “Sacrifice and Courage: The Dieppe Raid”, at the Windsor Chimczuk Museum marking the 75th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid continues through to December 31, honouring our local Essex Scottish soldiers who took part in this historic battle.

**On Remembrance Day, Saturday Nov. 11 at 2 PM, there will be a very special exhibit talk and walk-through hosted by Nicole Chittle of the Museum staff.**

### November 18

The Essex branch of the OGS is planning a road trip to the Kingsville Gosfield Heritage Society for a tour and talk. **Contact [essex @ogs.on.ca](mailto:essex@ogs.on.ca) for more details.**

### November 18

The Bicentennial branch of the United Empire Loyalists Association meets at 1PM in the Church of the Epiphany, 96 Main Street in Kingsville.

Everyone is welcome to hear Jean Rae Baxter discuss “The Governor and His Lady”. Learn about Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe, an important figure in Canadian history, and his wife Elizabeth Posthuma Simcoe, who greatly influenced the role of women in the society of her time. **You need not be a Loyalist to enjoy this presentation, and all guests are warmly welcomed.**

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### November 25

The JR Park Homestead offers...

“Deck The Holidays”, a hands-on wreath-making workshop from 2 to 4PM. For \$20 per person, you make a wreath from natural materials, enjoy warm cider or cocoa and a snack from the Homestead hearth. All materials and instructions are included.

**To register or get more information, contact [www.decktheholidaysworkshop2017.eventbrite.ca](http://www.decktheholidaysworkshop2017.eventbrite.ca)**

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### November 26

The Windsor Chimczuk Museum hosts a Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair from 11AM to 4PM.

Local crafters & artisans sell handmade & locally sourced goods to help celebrate the holidays. Admission is free, and there will be a silent auction - **a great way to kick off the Christmas season!**

## Recent events made me pause to think how fragile some things really are...

In the past year, two separate computer crashes posed a threat to my massive files, but in both cases, the important materials were backed up. Then, the Steele cottage at Rondeau Park recently burned to the ground; no one was injured, but nothing could be saved at all. It was in the family 69 years, and is now completely gone.



One of the first things my brother, its current owner, said to me was...  
**“Dad’s photo albums were in the desk”.**

I reassured him that I had scanned them all and the images were safe.

The furniture, appliances and clothing were gone, but our photos and memories live on.

Following our September meeting, at which I spoke about penny postcards, two HEIRS members loaned me their postcard collections to copy. A 3rd member is considering doing the same, and last week Director Roger Sinasac made his collection available to me as well. This will not only enrich the files at HEIRS, but it also helps ensure that these items will not be lost in a sudden emergency like a fire.

**If you wish, HEIRS can duplicate your items & return the originals to you. A one-of-a-kind item may be at risk of being lost forever - and it can happen quickly. If duplicate copies are around, they will likely survive into the future. Any family members or researchers will then continue to have access to them, once copied.**

Take steps to protect your family’s story today! - Ted Steele

## Help us build a comprehensive file of information & photos dealing with the two World Wars.

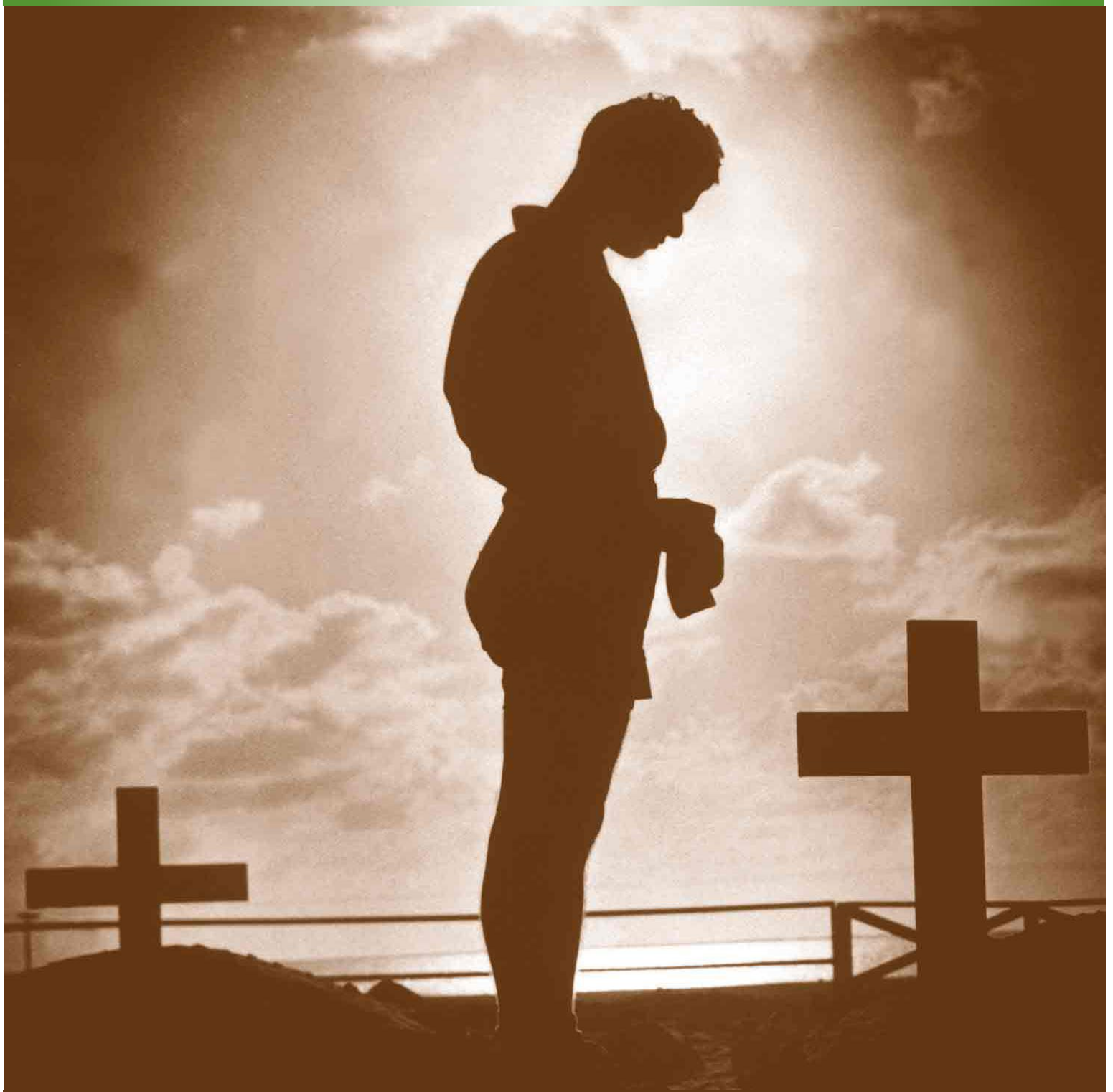
If you have any family information to contribute, we would like the opportunity to copy it for our records.

Let’s gather as much as possible on record for research before it disappears forever.

**We are not asking for donations, merely the chance to duplicate materials and preserve their contents.**

**Those in our families who served and sacrificed, deserve to have their stories remembered, and those researching in the future will be grateful to have the materials available to them.**





While Canadian soldiers were overseas, the women of Harrow & Colchester South formed the Women's Patriotic League & the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE). They sent packages of baked goods, scarves, mittens, socks, bandages & cigarettes to the men from this area.

*A lady living on Maple Street in Harrow received a thank you note from a soldier in Germany ...*

*"Socks received, some fit!  
I used one for a helmet,  
and the other for a mitt.  
I must say, dear lady,  
You've done your bit,  
But where in the Hell  
Did you learn to knit?"*



# The Amherstburg Echo.

Tue. Dec. 12

AMHERSTBURG, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1904.

Week No. 2424

100 ACRES FOR SALE.

In full possession, Amherst Township, good water, well-shaded, in town of Amherst, with well buildings. For further particulars see page one.

FALLS BROS., Agts.  
Amherstburg.

LIME FOR SALE  
IN  
CARLOAD LOTS.

THE SOVEREIGN BANK OF CANADA.

HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO, ONT.

SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT.

HARROW BRANCH, AMHERSTBURG BRANCH.  
C. A. WILKINSON, M. J. LAKE  
Managers.

PROCESSED BY AMHERSTBURG

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## November 9

The young farmers of this community are likely to have the opportunity of attending an Agricultural Short Course conducted under the auspices of the District Representative in Harrow during the winter months. Subjects: farm bookkeeping, drainage, seed selection, stock judging, bee keeping, soils, moisture and topics on scientific and practical agriculture.

## November 12

Residents of Harrow and Colchester South have joined in the protest against all the fine whitefish from Lake Erie going to the American consumers, to the detriment of local trade. They want fisheries to supply local persons who visit the fisheries. People have to go on putting up with the high cost of living and meat-less, fish-less Tuesdays and Fridays.

## November 16

Quality Cannery finished up their sweet corn run on Wednesday and are getting ready to can pumpkin until cold weather sets in; then they will can pork and beans, and continue that all winter. 25 to 30 hands are employed. The Clark Co. Received a car or 2 of tomatoes in bulk and are busy putting them up.

The Victory Loan campaign is gaining force. Rev. J. E. Russ and F. H. Ferriss are making the canvass, and have met with good success.

The name of E. H. Conn of Harrow was among the wounded. Son of Milton Conn of Marshfield who came here 3 years ago from Ohio. He joined the 99 Battalion, and has been in France nearly a year.

Contractor James McGill has the bridge over Cedar Creek practically finished, the floor having been laid on the steel framework. This bridge was built under great difficulties, and the county officials who inspected it declare that it is a big job well done.

## November 30

Howard Heaton, who has been on Pelee Island for 2 months looking after the Heinz pickle industry, returned home to interest farmers here in the cauliflower raising industry. He wants 100 acres of marshland to be devoted to this next year. The production is from 4 to 7 tons per acre, and the company is offering \$50 per ton.

## 8 Reminders

### Help Request

The Essex County OGS is requesting the use of any old school yearbooks that you may have. These can either be loaned to the OGS for scanning and adding to their computer files, or can be donated, whichever you wish.

If you can help, please contact [essex@ogs.on.ca](mailto:essex@ogs.on.ca) and they will be appreciative.

### Help for Hire

The Marsh Collection on Richmond Street in Amherstburg will perform in-depth historical property research for \$25. This could potentially include copies of news articles and photos as well as pertinent documents like deeds.

Contact them at 519-736-9191 or at [research@marshcollection.org](mailto:research@marshcollection.org) for more details.

### Kudos

We at HEIRS always love to get feedback from our members. In the mailbag recently, we received the following...

**“Your publications are always of interest and well done- especially this last issue. Congratulations to all who work towards these issues. M.S.”**

We at HEIRS make a good team (we think), and who doesn't like to be acknowledged?

If you have some thoughts and opinions, we'd be most interested to hear them. Got ideas for a meeting we might be able to develop? A note or email is always appreciated and welcomed!





## Reviewing Some of The Treasures of HEIRS ...

- by Ted Steele, HEIRS Director

**As we all know, print media is slowly dying. To many of us, it is sad to see, yet understandable.**

Advertising increases, to pay the costs of production, and content decreases. The same trend is overtaking most magazines. There are exceptions to that trend, however.

HEIRS selects a few magazines to subscribe to; these offer content of quality and interest on a regular monthly basis and are worth both the cost and the time to read.

One of the best of these, in my opinion, is "Canada's History". Formerly called "The Beaver", each month it offers articles on Canadian history topics which are often either completely unknown or little understood. The most recent issue featured stories appropriate for the Halloween season - a "ghost ship" abandoned in the far North, yet spotted drifting on its own for decades.



Another story discusses the need for cadavers to further medical research, an ancient tradition called "Mummers", and a French-Canadian folk tale of a supernatural "Flying Canoe" used as part of a "deal with the Devil".

An article of interest to me pointed out how fortunate those of my generation were (born in the early 1940s) to enjoy 'trick or treating', as we came along at just the right time to benefit from the relaxing of wartime rationing of sugar. This allowed the candy companies to boost the whole Halloween tradition. I had no idea before reading this.

Thumbing through the pages of any of these issues, one finds stories on recently discovered artifacts, or how fur-bearing animals like



beavers were successfully hunted in pioneer times. Or what life was like as a young wife and mother during Canada's early years, or how women in wartime took to the factories and produced the necessities for our military to continue the war effort in Europe.

Many times an article strikes me, and it either appears as part of an HEIRS newsletter, or it is filed to be used later in one of our monthly meetings.

**This is one publication well worth its cost, but HEIRS members can come in and borrow it from our library at any time.**

## HEIRS Resource Centre

September to June (excluding December)

Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM - 3PM

Wednesday or for other appts. Call to confirm.

### Memberships

**\$25 CDN/US per person or couple: May 2017 to April 2018**

**Send cheque to: HEIRS PO Box 53, Harrow ON Canada N0R 1G0**

Please include phone, fax, email, website & names you are now researching.

Non-member user fee for HEIRS Research Library: \$5 / visit (+ photocopy costs).

### HEIRS Newsletter

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).  
**Receive full colour newsletters by email & save HEIRS the printing & mailing costs of B&W copies by regular post. Simply provide your email address to our office.**



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



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