

Vol. 7 – September 2018

# HEIRS

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society

*newsletter*



www.HEIRS.ca  
Tel.:519 738-3700  
Email:hheritage@bellnet.ca

243 McAfee St., PO Box 53,  
Harrow, ON Canada N0R 1G0  
Harrow & Colchester South  
Community Centre (Arena Bldg.)



***Next meeting...***

***Les Filles du Roi & the Early French Families of Essex County***

## Newsletter News!

### Welcome to the September newsletter.

Summer officially is still not over, so don't even dare mention the next season's name yet. With lots of great, cooler days to come, it is a perfect time (when tourists and other vacationers are back to work) to explore the places you had planned to visit at the **start** of the summer.

With less of a crowd, you can take more time to explore every exhibit & building your chosen place of interest has to offer. As well, local resource centres, like HEIRS can be a great source of information. Another such place to explore is the focus of our September meeting.

**On se voit là-bas? (See you there?)**

### Next Meeting

**When:** Thursday, September 27, 1:30 PM

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

**We begin another slate of great meetings after our summer break. Agathe Villancourt from the RPFO, the Réseau du patrimoine franco-ontarien.**

This group, located in Windsor on Prince Road, is similar to HEIRS in that it assists researchers discovering their roots (French roots specifically) in Essex County. We know some of these families can be traced back to the early 1700s before the arrival of the United Empire Loyalists. UELs arrived after the American Revolution ended in 1783.

Anyone whose family line includes names like Bondy, Langlois, Beneteau, Meloche and others will learn about these ancestors and how the RPFO can help them learn more. At least 2 of HEIRS' Directors can trace their roots to a "Filles du Roi" or "daughters of the King", who were selected to come to New France and establish families so that the colony would have a stable foundation.

They were sent in large groups between 1663 and 1673, and most did indeed marry and found large flourishing families, their names still known to us today.

It is worth noting that these young ladies were selected if healthy, skilled, somewhat educated, hard-working and 'marriageable' to anchor the homes in the colony. They had to be able to cope with the rigours of pioneer life.

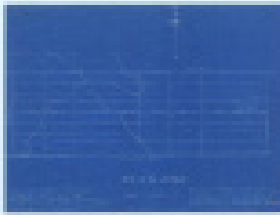
Any idea that they were low class is not at all realistic. Even earlier, from 1634 to 1663, a group of "Filles à Marier" or "ladies for marriage" were sent for the same reasons, but without the Royal backing, and were less successful.

**A bit of research at both HEIRS and the RPFO might yield some real surprises for you! Please join us.**

# Historic Harrow



The origins of Harrow are traced back to 1824 when the 200 acres of the Harrow Farm, was purchased by the Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Hunt and his wife, Elizabeth. The property was divided into lots and sold to various individuals. The Harrow Farm was the site of the Harrow Village, which was the center of the Harrow community. The Harrow Farm was the site of the Harrow Village, which was the center of the Harrow community. The Harrow Farm was the site of the Harrow Village, which was the center of the Harrow community.



This photo of the Harrow Farm, taken in 1824, shows the site of the Harrow Farm, which was the center of the Harrow community.

The Harrow Farm was the site of the Harrow Village, which was the center of the Harrow community. The Harrow Farm was the site of the Harrow Village, which was the center of the Harrow community. The Harrow Farm was the site of the Harrow Village, which was the center of the Harrow community.

**Harrow's Origins**  
The Harrow Farm was the site of the Harrow Village, which was the center of the Harrow community. The Harrow Farm was the site of the Harrow Village, which was the center of the Harrow community. The Harrow Farm was the site of the Harrow Village, which was the center of the Harrow community.

In the 1820s, the Harrow Farm was the site of the Harrow Village, which was the center of the Harrow community. The Harrow Farm was the site of the Harrow Village, which was the center of the Harrow community. The Harrow Farm was the site of the Harrow Village, which was the center of the Harrow community.

Development was rapid in the 1820s and 1830s, with the Harrow Farm being the center of the Harrow community. The Harrow Farm was the site of the Harrow Village, which was the center of the Harrow community. The Harrow Farm was the site of the Harrow Village, which was the center of the Harrow community.

In 1885, Harrow Village changed the local landscape and brought a new spirit of optimism to Harrow with the construction of the Lake Erie, Lake and Detroit Street Railway. The railway brought greater connectivity to Harrow and helped to bring the Harrow community together.

The Harrow Farm was the site of the Harrow Village, which was the center of the Harrow community. The Harrow Farm was the site of the Harrow Village, which was the center of the Harrow community. The Harrow Farm was the site of the Harrow Village, which was the center of the Harrow community.



This photo shows a building in Harrow, which was the center of the Harrow community.

In 1885, the Harrow and Colchester South Agricultural Society was organized and began leasing the Harrow Agricultural Fair, which continues to this day as the Harrow Fair.

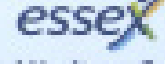
Founded in 1824, the Harrow Village was the center of the Harrow community. The Harrow Village was the center of the Harrow community. The Harrow Village was the center of the Harrow community.



This photo shows a group of people in Harrow, which was the center of the Harrow community.

In 1885, Harrow officially became a town in the optimistic economic climate of 1885. The Harrow Village was the center of the Harrow community. The Harrow Village was the center of the Harrow community. The Harrow Village was the center of the Harrow community.

The Harrow Farm was the site of the Harrow Village, which was the center of the Harrow community. The Harrow Farm was the site of the Harrow Village, which was the center of the Harrow community. The Harrow Farm was the site of the Harrow Village, which was the center of the Harrow community.



Essex Municipal Heritage Committee



On Thursday, August 30, the Town of Essex and the Essex Municipal Heritage Committee unveiled a plaque to commemorate historic Harrow.

The plaque, in the Harrow Veterans' Memorial Park at 30 King Street West, is the 6th plaque in the series to be unveiled, marking important historic sites around Essex County.

This program promotes pride in our past and an awareness of our local history.



The first weekend of the summer found HEIRS Directors and volunteers in front of Sanford's store with our annual fundraising BBQ.

The number of weekend BBQs held at this location was cut back this year, but HEIRS was fortunate enough to be invited to participate.

Hot dogs, sausages, and cold drinks were on the menu, and we thank everyone who stopped by to partake of the goodies and support our group. **Community involvement is key to many of our activities. As always, it is appreciated.**



## From the HEIRS mailbag....



Sadly, the Harrow Colchester South Lions Club has ceased to be. They have resigned their charter, and no longer are a functioning group. HEIRS wishes to thank the Lions Club for a substantial donation to our group, and thanks them for the good work they have done for this community for many years.

---

HEIRS members (and a few non-members) have brought in VHS tapes to be converted to DVD format.

In one case, a tape was converted showing the constructing of the Ambassador Bridge in 1927, and HEIRS has added the DVD to its library of media. A few years ago, we had this disc and it went missing. **The member who misplaced it can rest easy now, as HEIRS has a new copy and all is well again.**

We also have a 4 DVD set showing the restoration of the Kingsville Train Station from start to finish. The VHS tapes were shot originally by Hector Ringrose of Kingsville; through the Friends of Cedar Creek. **We converted these tapes and have the DVD's available for purchase at a very reasonable price.**

---

An old friend / member of HEIRS, Jean McCarron "McGillicuddy" writes that she misses the meetings but enjoys our newsy, informative newsletters. **It's always nice to be appreciated- thank you, Jean.**

---

Some months back, we had author Jean Rae Baxter visit HEIRS, and some of us heard her

presentation to the United Empire Loyalists in Kingsville, regarding the wife of Governor Simcoe, about whom she has written a book.

She says, **"It is frustrating to be a member at such a distance, but your excellent newsletter makes me feel part of all the interesting events going on in the place my mother used to call 'back home'. I hope to be able to attend a meeting in person before too long". We hope so too, Jean.**

---

For 8 weeks through the summer, HEIRS has enjoyed the support services of two young ladies, Anne Storey and Cassidy Kost who have aided us greatly.

They allowed us to keep the research centre open all summer, as well as doing a host of clerical and secretarial tasks for us. Our summer students are invaluable to the group, and are appreciated. **They also assisted us with "Explore the Shore", helping HEIRS staff maintain a presence at this event. Thanks again.**



**Chris Carter, Lorrie Stephenson, Anne Storey, Cassidy Kost (summer student) & Kathy Langlois.**



THE TOWN OF TECUMSEH AND THE OLDE SANDWICH  
SOUTH & AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENT THE

# GRAND OPENING

OF THE

SANDWICH SOUTH  
CULTURAL & RESOURCE  
CENTRE

AND THE CELEBRATION OF

THE 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF SANDWICH SOUTH

AND

THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
OLDE SANDWICH SOUTH &  
AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 AT 1PM**

AT FIRE STATION #2 IN OLDCASTLE  
ENTERTAINMENT, FIRE TRUCK RIDES, FOOD & REFRESHMENTS

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

*A new cultural and resource centre in opens in Oldcastle on September 30th.*

*Yet another source of research information.*

*Our local history / cultural base continues to expand!*

## 6 Upcoming Events

### Cooler Fall air signals local events...

#### Autumn - a great time of year!

The Bicentennial Branch of the United Empire Loyalists meets September 15 in the Church of the Epiphany, Main Street in Kingsville at 12 noon sharp. All are invited to attend.

**RSVP is Saturday, September. 8th**

### Annual Luncheon Meeting

**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND**  
Anyone with interest in the Loyalists of Canada & Essex County and their History is more than welcome!

**Saturday September 15th, 2018**

Church of the Epiphany Church Hall  
96 Main Street West, Kingsville, Ontario

**12:00 Noon (Sharp)**

*Great Chef Catered Lunch*  
**\$20.00 / person (pay at door)**

**R.S.V.P. by Sept. 8th**

Email Judit Girty [judith.girty@gmail.com](mailto:judith.girty@gmail.com)  
Call (226) 347-8377 (Leave Message)

**Guest Speaker:**  
**Sir Isaac Brock Re-Enactor**  
Bob Rennie "Being Brock"

### The Ruthven Apple Fest runs on the September 28th weekend.

Amherstburg's annual History Festival runs the weekend of September 28, with re-enactors, demonstrations, & information on many of the local historic sites & attractions.

As well, many of the local history groups will be

present to provide information on who they are & what they do. Activities are centered around Fort Malden & run through the weekend.

A special bus tour of 3 of Essex County's lesser-known attractions, each with much to recommend them. It can be amazing to see what some of these off-the-beaten-trail places have, within their collections.

### Tour Lakeshore Museums

**DRIVE or TAKE THE BUS TO VISIT...**

#### COMBER Museum

Windsor-Essex County's Largest  
Agricultural Museum

#### MAIDSTONE Museum

Where history comes alive among  
the heritage native gardens

#### JOHN FREEMAN WALL

Underground Railroad Site

**Thursday September 13th 2018**  
**9AM - 4PM**

**Admission \$15 \* Bus Ticket \$9 \* Lunch Ticket \$6**

**Register by phone...**

Community Support Centre of Essex County

**(519) 728 -1435**

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**HEIRS October 25th meeting**  
**will be an EVENING one.**

**We'll have a short meeting at 6:30PM.**

**At 7PM, our special guest, retired**  
**Lt. Col. Hardy Wheeler, Essex-Kent**  
**Scottish Regiment, will tell us about**  
**the history of the unit.**



# The Amherstburg Echo.

THE ORIGINAL PAPER OF THE COUNTY

Vol. XXX No. 15

AMHERSTBURG, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1904.

Weekly No. 2476

100 ACRES FOR SALE.

In full possession, Amherst Township, about 1 mile N. of Amherstburg, 20 acres of land, with good 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.

SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT.

HARROW BRANCH. AMHERSTBURG BRANCH.  
C. A. MANNING, Manager. M. I. LAKE, Manager.

BOOKS & STATIONERY

WINE & SPIRITS

BURK BROS.

THE POPULAR TRADING HOUSE.

3



## September 27

A writer to the Echo goes on at length about the produce grown in Colchester South Township, and our need of transportation links with our markets. Leamington and Ruthven have the radial line, but all Harrow has is the railroad which is not giving good service.

Only answer is to have good roads, and this area did not join with the "good roads" venture of the north of the county. Writer maintains that it is the time we should spend the funds to get the roads so that "auto truck service to ship our produce can be established". This investment would bring in dollars.

## September 29

Another writer responds to "good roads"...  
"All you old taxpayers paid the L.E. Railway 35 thousand dollars of principal and interest. to the large drainage tax on this township today, and war tax, which will be trebled later on. Add forty

or fifty thousand or more for good roads, and it becomes a question we had better consider well. If you don't, it will soon be all taxes.

As for a market, the buyers all say Harrow is the best market for produce of all kinds west of Chatham, and the farmers all sell here and don't go anywhere else to sell their produce. You can ship your produce to any place you want from Harrow."

### Note:

**These were the only articles about Harrow from the September Echo files of 1918;**

**It suggests that most space was likely taken up by news of the rapidly approaching end to the Great War.**

### The Treasures of HEIRS ...

- by Ted Steele, HEIRS Director



#### Part 3: McCormicks in Upper Canada

HEIRS' May & June newsletters told of Alexander McCormick & Elizabeth Turner's remarkable meeting, & their unusual 'captive courtship' & marriage in 1783. They returned to the Maumee Valley in Ohio to establish a trading post, farm their small orchard & acreage & raise their son William, born there in 1784. **Their adventurous story continues...**

In fact, 6 of their 8 children were actually born in the Maumee Valley, the last in 1794. That year, the crucial Battle of Fallen Timbers occurred. This resulted in the Jay Treaty, where the British surrendered its holdings in the 'northwestern territory' to the Americans. As a historical turning point, it removed most native 'ownership' of that territory, subduing decades of struggle between U.S. expansionism & native resistance. British refusal of armed support for native warriors at this battle negated any hope for victory against 'Mad' Anthony Wayne's highly-trained troops. This lop-sided win encouraged the U.S. government to extend the army's mandate another 3 years. Country divisional lines were established & British loyalists left for Upper & Lower Canada in exponential numbers.

The U.S. postal service issued a commemorative stamp in 1929, for the 135th anniversary of the Battle of Fallen Timbers.

A monument was erected in honour of all participants on the battlefield.



McCormick along with up to 50,000 traders & families loyal to Britain over time, pulled up stakes. The Indians drove off many traders and their families away, just prior to the battle itself. McCormick's trading station like others, were systematically burned to the ground by the American troops, who also destroyed crops & any residual items that might provide support for the loyalists following the battle.

Five years later following Alexander's death, his family attempted to lay rightful claim to his Ohio property, with his land deed in hand. The American court ruled his property had been confiscated due to "actions disloyal to the United States". Their legal battle ended.

In fact, it appears that Alexander, being 'business minded' provided information (in writing at times) to both the British & Americans concerning troop activities. Perhaps attempting to secure his property, to keep his family safe, or perhaps to ingratiate himself to both sides not knowing who would prevail. Whatever his rationale, he realized their time in Maumee Valley was over. They headed initially to friends in Detroit, until it too was ceded to the Americans by the Jay Treaty.

At that time, loyalists to Britain were offered free land in Upper Canada. About 1795 Alexander eventually settled on the north shore of Lake Erie (Lots 77 & 78, Conc. 1, Colchester).

Here Alexander continued to do what he knew best... trading with local natives, farming his land & raising his large & growing family. Two more children were born, Matthew 1797, and Alexander Jr., in 1800.



In 1802, 75 year old Alexander returned one last time to see family in the north of Ireland, leaving for Upper Canada the following spring.

He died in 1803 back in Upper Canada & was buried on Matthew his son's farm. At his death, he owned 900-1,000 acres. His name was added to the U.E.L. Executive Mark of Honour Roll, O.C. 9 May 1818, by petition of his son William McCormick.



An official dedication at the McCormick Family Cemetery with commemorative stones & plaque was held on October 20, 2003. They were placed for Alexander & his wife Elizabeth, on Lot 7, The Gore, off Dunn Road in Colchester S. township.

His gravestone is the oldest standing marker, in its original location within Essex County.

**Elizabeth was now a widow at 45, with 8 kids, the eldest William, being 19.** Little is written about these years of struggle for Elizabeth. No doubt she relied upon William and her fellow loyalist neighbours for help. For sure, she instilled qualities within William to become strong, independent & successful.

**To describe William as an over-achiever is an understatement.** His service to his country (in military & politics), and his forethought not just for the well-being of his immediate family, but for McCormick generations to come, is admirable. **William might be best known as the man who owned Pelee Island.**



This commemorative plaque on Pelee Island lists the offices held by William McCormick. Twelve children, POW in the War of 1812, wounded in battle & hosting important political figures of the day... he packed a lot of achievements into his short 56 years of life.

He saw Pelee's great potential: limestone for local building, red cedar for Fort Malden & ship building, raising hogs for military contracts... these were his early endeavours to offset development costs & allowing him to settle his entire family there, including mother Elizabeth. She must have beamed with pride knowing how well he turned out; this baby she once carried on horseback through the Ohio backwoods to revisit her family in Pittsburgh. She passed away while visiting friends in Colchester. As one author put it, "still enjoying the adventures of travel at age 80". She was laid to rest beside Alexander in the McCormick Family Cemetery.

**Fittingly, William was buried on his Pelee Island.**



To learn more about William, visit the numerous online references of his personal, business & political life; too many stories to adequately cover in this short article.

The head of the McCormicks of Pelee Island, he built upon the foundation his parents created for him and his seven siblings.

# HEIRS Resource Centre

**Open Sept. - June** (Dec. excepted)

Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM - 3PM

Wednesday & other appts: Call to confirm.

## Newsletter

Published 9 times per year, in conjunction with General Meetings held on the 4th Thursday of the month, from 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

\$25 CDN / U.S.

per person or couple covers

May 1st (2018) to April 30th, 2019

## Send cheque to:

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

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

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

---

*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.*

---

## Board of Directors

### President

**Richard Herniman**

herniman5@sympatico.ca

### Vice-President

**Chris Carter**

cdcarter002@gmail.com

### Secretary

**Kathy Langlois**

kathyl@msni.net

### Directors

**Pauline Baldwin**

**Brian Leslie**

**Esther Meerschaut**

**Ted Steele**

**Lorrie Stephenson**

**Bonnie Storey**

## Committee Chairpersons

### Resource Centre

**Pauline Baldwin**

baldwin1@xplornet.com

### Kathy Langlois

kathyl@msni.net

### Membership

**Richard Herniman**

herniman5@sympatico.ca

### Hospitality

**John & Ann Brush**

jmb1@xplornet.com

### Program / Publicity

**Chris Carter**

cdcarter002@gmail.com

### Ted Steele

historynut@outlook.ca

### Newsletter

**Ted Steele**

historynut@outlook.ca

519 733-3456

