

Vol. 9 – November 2018

HEIRS

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society

newsletter



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Harrow & Colchester South
Community Centre (Arena Bldg.)



Next meeting...

"Growing Up Girty"

Newsletter News!

Welcome to the November newsletter.

Working intensely on my family story these past two months, something significant dawned on me. I am deeply cross-connected with most families in the Harrow & Colchester region.

I realized that if I walked down King St. in Harrow, and said “Hello cousin” to everyone I met along the way, I would be accurate more times than not (& get a few strange looks no doubt).. The Mayan culture believed in “blood lightning” or the ancestral memory existing in the blood, which was passed to each generation.

Our early pioneers whose children bonded families together ‘by blood’ through marriage, thus provided a mixture of these ancestral memories from the pioneer names to today. It took villagers, to make a village... so to speak.

And speaking of bloodlines, don’t miss this month’s speaker whose own bloodline carries the memory of his infamous ancestor. **See you there... cousin?**

Next Meeting

When: Thursday, November 22nd 1:30PM

Where: Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Meeting Room

HEIRS’ next meeting runs at the usual 1:30 PM time slot, to hear Charles Wimperis, UE tell us ‘the real story’ of his 7 times great-grandfather, Simon Girty.

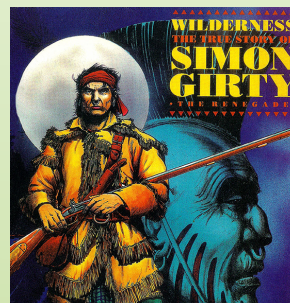
Since his passing in 1818, Simon has become the scapegoat for many atrocities of the American Revolution, often blamed for events at which he was not even present.

Partly from confusing him with his brothers and their deeds, and partly due to American propaganda at the time, Simon has evolved into a vilified character in history, only now being given his true place in the settling and growth of Essex County.

Charles will explain Simon’s defence of Indian ways and customs; his support of

their cause in the fight against the American westward expansion, and why Simon ought to be regarded as a hero, rather than in true Canadian style, being overlooked as one of our nation’s great historical figures.

Join us for the legend of Simon Girty, and the unravelling of some of the myths that have grown around his name.



This month’s cover image & the book cover shown here are used with permission.

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On October 25th, HEIRS and the Essex Heritage Committee teamed up to present “A History of the Essex Kent Scottish Regiment”.

At 7 PM, the skirl of bagpipes, played by HEIRS member John Woodbridge, turned the floor over to our featured guest, Lt. Col. (retired) Hardy Wheeler.

Aided by visuals, he told of the roots of the unit from 1812 to the Rebellions of 1837, the Fenian Raids of the 1860s, whenever British Canada was threatened, and to multiple military actions through the past century.

The Regiment’s deep involvement in both WW 1 and 2 was highlighted, with battles fought, battle honours won, and important successes in the field accomplished. He stressed Canada’s willingness to sacrifice when necessary, to tackle the most difficult jobs and the high price that has been paid in lives to win our nation’s freedom and respect.



Courtesy: Shelby Wye, Harrow News

Included were the many occasions when our troops have been deployed in countries around the world where chronic tribal conflict seems ongoing & endless. Yet, we have made a difference in the lives of the citizens through peace-keeping, educating the children, and as well the training of local policing forces to better maintain their stability.

Mr. Wheeler shared his first-hand knowledge and experiences in a relaxed, engaging style, making the wealth of information interesting and most thought-provoking.



Local artist Don Waffle displayed one of his paintings at the Essex and Kent Scottish Reunion recently in Windsor. He kindly offered for display during the HEIRS October meeting. The painting shows the Pipes & Drums of the regiment, marching at Dieppe. This appropriately suited the occasion, marking both the history of the regiment & the approaching Remembrance Day services in the county. **Shown above: Piper John Woodbridge, guest speaker Lt. Col (retired) Hardy Wheeler, with the ‘Liberation of Dieppe’ artist Don Waffle.**

Lajeunesse Award



The Essex County Historical Society (ECHS) met on October 18th for an evening dinner meeting at Ducks On The Roof, near Amherstburg. They presented their annual Lajeunesse Award, awarded for the contribution to restoration and preservation of local history, to Bill Brundage. This recognized Bill's work to preserve the 1839 vintage blockhouse on Bois Blanc (Boblo) Island. An honour well-earned, and much appreciated by its humbled recipient.

Upcoming Event: November 17th

The John R Park Homestead continues their long tradition of offering holiday workshops as the Christmas season approaches. On Saturday, Nov. 3, learn to make felted wool slippers or mittens; materials and instruction provided. Running from 9 AM to 3 PM, the cost is \$40 per person.

On Saturday, Nov. 17, a workshop on holiday lino-cut print making is offered. This is a perfect opportunity to learn to make your own gift tags, holiday cards and more, and beginners are welcome. Cost is \$55 per person, and it will run from 10 AM to 4 PM.

Both require pre-registration, so please contact them at 519-738-2029, or by email at jrph@erca.org.

Souterrain Impressions Exhibit

"First World War Carvings come out of the darkness and into the light"

Canadian Transportation Museum & Historic Village, Arner Townline, Kingsville

9:00 - 3:00 Tuesday-Sunday, until Nov. 18

Free admission to exhibit. Donations greatly appreciated to help cover costs.

A once in a lifetime opportunity to view carvings & images created by Canadian soldiers in caves near Vimy Ridge France, during WWI. The carvings were made while Canadian soldiers waited to move to the forward trenches before the historic Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917.

Kingsville, Ontario, Wednesday, November 11, 1981

Out of the Rubble a Small Miracle!



Following the disastrous fire that left one of our town's most illustrious buildings and landmarks a heap of rubble and twisted girders, several town people

were hoping against hope that something precious and valuable as a family treasure would be unearthed as the huge machinery began moving the bricks, etc. back to

clear the sidewalk. One of the many people who had lost a family treasure was Fred Swaddling who had so kindly lent his wartime hat badge collection to be displayed in the Pro Hardware window for Armistice Day, November 11th. It added greatly to the many momentos, model planes, a beautiful model of a Canadian Corvette, compliments of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch, etc. etc. Following the fire all was lost or certainly buried under the rubble.

Mr. Swaddling was heart-sick at losing all his hat badges which he had collected during the war. He expressed his wish to the men clearing the rubble. "If you see any of my badges, please contact me." His most prized ones were his

father's life membership badge from Branch 188, his mother's Land Army hat badge from World War I and his Aunt Lil's hat badge from the Auxiliary Fire Service which she had given to him in England.

Well, Tuesday morning, he got a call from the Town Clerk's office. Mr. Owen Turner, the Town Superintendent had found three badges. Would you believe out of approximately 75 badges which comprised Mr. Swaddling's collection, the three badges that were found were: Mr. Charles Swaddling's life membership badge, Mrs. Ethel Swaddling's Land Army hat badge and Mrs. Lil Halfpenny's A.F.S. badge.

At the Swaddling home on 18 Highway West, they believe in miracles.

Let's start with a few old sayings...

"Make hay while the sun shines"; "Bar the door before the horses get out, not after", & even "Gather ye sheaves while ye may".

My point (yes, I have one) is that HEIRS sees a pressing need to preserve local history before it is lost forever. Now is the time for us & you to gather photos & memorabilia, & make them available to us for our files.

HEIRS President Richard Herniman has compiled an extensive list of the local men & women who served in the wars of the last century, especially those in WW 1 (1914-18). From experience, we can say that few other organizations are making this same effort, & opportunities have already slipped away. What is not saved in some form will SOON be lost

forever, as we age & memories serve us less accurately. The information you and others in your family now have, should be written down, or photographed, or photocopied.

Today entire buildings are being destroyed with no thought to what they may represent; people in photos become nameless entities (look at all the old pix in antique & thrift stores). Those wonderful family stories our grandparents told to us are rapidly being forgotten. Please consider adding your family records to our files, and preserve those memories for future researchers to access.

I am currently working at finding a home for much of my family materials, some will indeed be offered to HEIRS, as well other potential homes. **Please... "Do ye likewise."** (For some reason, I seem to be in a **"Biblical" mood.**) - Ted Steele

Good Home Needed

HEIRS has come into possession of 5 small 'daily journal' or 'diary' type books covering the years 1931 to 1935, written by a member of the Ridsdale family.



*They do not seem to be usable by HEIRS, as they mainly tell of visits to neighbours and daily activities around the Ridsdale homestead, weather conditions at the time, etc. We are hoping we can reunite them where they belong, with a Ridsdale family member or relative. Please speak to any of the directors at our meeting, or stop in at the research centre on a Tuesday or Thursday. **(Don't forget we will be closed during the month of December.)***



HEIRS in Action

HEIRS director Esther Meerschaut put together a 2 hour session of trivia questions and puzzles, which was presented at St. Andrews Anglican Church on King Street in Harrow on October 16th.

This event was created as part of the ElderCollege series of enjoyable learning experiences. Approximately 16 participants had a lot of fun and laughs as well.

Most of the trivia buffs in attendance indicated a desire for more of this kind of event, so more are being planned for the same location right here in Harrow. Stay tuned!

TAPE CONVERSION NOTICE

The amount of work involved to convert many VHS tapes to disk makes it necessary to increase this cost. Tapes are often presented in bad shape, need to be split over 2 disks, or require larger capacity disks. They also necessitate frequent cleaning of the VHS machine heads. For these reasons, starting in January 2019 the cost will be set at \$10 per disk.

The Amherstburg Echo.

M. J. Leonard, Secy.

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.

November 1

Public Board of Health announces cancellation of public meetings, schools, churches, etc, until the current flu epidemic is over.

November 13

News of peace, Thursday afternoon of last week, completely upset Harrow. Business was suspended & decorations of all kinds were flung to the breeze; fire bells rang, horns were tooted and an automobile parade was organized which followed the road around the lake and spent the afternoon in jollification. Monday was a repetition of Thursday's proceedings; all business houses were closed.

November 22

F. H. Ferriss has purchased the Herdman block and property from J. H. Clark. He is having it renovated and it will likely be completed shortly.

William H. Fulmer, son of George Fulmer, a native of Ohio, who came to Essex County in the early 1830s & served during the Rebellion of 1837, had died. George later settled at Harrow, where William H. Was born.

THE SOVEREIGN BANK OF CANADA.

HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO, ONT.

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

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.
C. A. MacMAHON,
Manager.

AMHERSTBURG BRANCH.
M. I. LANE,
Manager.

LOST.

LOST—strayed from my place, Vereker, on Sunday, Feb. 28th, a black, white and tan English water bitch, answering to the name "Lady". Finder will receive liberal reward by returning to me, or on being notified I will give \$10.00. A. FILLON, Vereker.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL.

Mrs. Wm. HAMMERS' condition keeps about the same.

Miss EDITH HAMMERS is laid up this week with a gripe.

"JERRY" from Kestry, at the Town Hall, March 10th. Reserved seats at McEvoy's.

Don't fail to see "Jerry" the funny fellow, at McEvoy's.

MALDEN.

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

Mrs. Frank Hunt has been suffering from an attack of a gripe.

Wm. Golden is suffering from severe attack of inflammatory rheumatism.

Mrs. Ames McLean, of Windsor, is on a visit to her daughter, Mrs. Wilson Harris, 8th con.

Mrs. Frank Beaudoin, of the lake road, is confined to the house with a severe attack of the gripe.

Jas. Lafferty, of the river front, covering after meeting the ladies, caused by a gripe.

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 \$60 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. Roach for plaintiff, D. R. Davis for defendant. This action was tried before me at the last sitting of the Division Court at Amherstburg. It is for personal injuries sustained by the female plaintiff by falling on a sidewalk on Fort Street, of Amherstburg. It is pleaded by counsel for the defendant that if the plaintiff has a case that she would be entitled to recover, keep the streets and highways under its control and liable for any damage sustained by any person by reason of such default. The defendant corporation applies to set aside the judgment entered herein on the ground that there is no evidence that the sidewalk in question was in a reasonable state of repair, and that the plaintiff was not reasonably expected to be able to do so without danger. Corollary accidents by reason of a defective walk or high ways occur without reporting the corporation liable. There was no very rough upon the sidewalk in question and it is very properly that in such cases a jury should be required to question the liability of the corporation, however that...

ANDERDON COUNCIL.

Council met in all members present. Session with Messrs. Groulx and Co. just read by adon by Messrs. Voll Pageau get a w furnished to Moved by Messrs. Antoine Leduc clearing ice f and Wilber bridge on Moved by that Messrs. O Bouteau sheep kil Moved by that H \$5 for Willis atelator applic side for property and Cote, be appointed Duke's application—Carrion Dufour complained that the culvert across the M. O. R. track in the Dufour drain is not low enough to allow a sufficient outlet for the water, the clerk was instructed to notify the M. O. R. Co. to have said culvert lowered as soon as they can be performed by...



BURK BROS.

Special

William married Evelyn Goble, daughter of Fred Goble, postmaster of Harrow, and she survives him, along with six children— Oliver of Amherstburg, Judson of Alberta, Mrs. Bennett of Malden, Fred of Kingsville, Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. Connors, both of Michigan.

They moved from Harrow to Ogenaw, Michigan, where they spent several years; they also lived in Bothwell and in Gosfield North, moving to Anderdon last Spring.

November 29

Business is looking up on the Pere Marquette, and maybe it will be necessary to restore the service taken off last year.

So many through trains are running that it has become necessary to add night operators at Harrow, Leamington, Ridgetown and Sombra. H. P. McCall of Petrolia is the new local man.

Harrow citizens co-operated with the ban on meetings, so that now the flu is almost stamped out, while in other areas whole families are down with it.

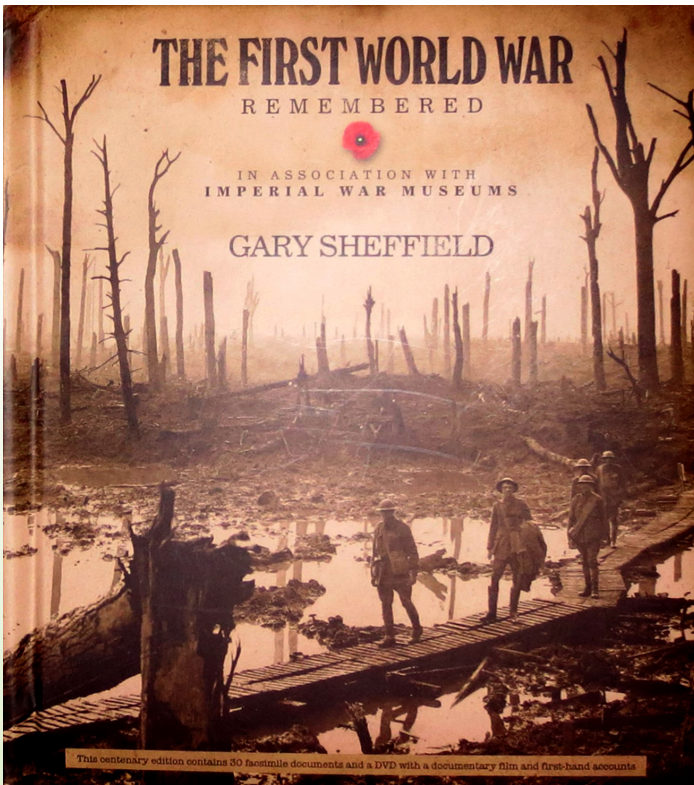
The Treasures of HEIRS

- by Ted Steele, HEIRS Director

Treasures Within the HEIRS Collection

As I have previously said, HEIRS has items loaned and donated which are nothing short of wonderful, and I often get to see them first among the directors.

So it is, with this book, a photo album and more. It was donated to HEIRS by Les Hodgkins, long-time member and former director.



The book fills a gap that I have long felt is quite common; namely, the many places and events fought outside the heavily-publicized and well-known locales such as Vimy and Passchendaele. The pages & photos in this book often focus on the fighting in places like Mesopotamia, Italy and Jutland to name a few.

Our Canadian troops fought & died in these locales, but they are relatively unknown. The wartime contributions by women have their

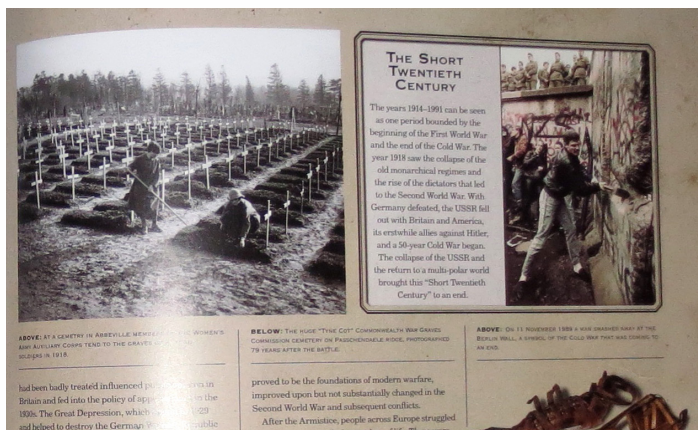


own section, as does the Russian troops who were involved.

In various places within the book, a large envelope replaces the photos, an envelope containing copies of documents, posters or other items of interest.

At the front of the book, a smaller envelope contains a disk, with interviews and first-hand accounts entitled “We Fought On The Western Front” and “Our Empire’s Fight For Freedom”.

This volume looks at WW 1 from a slightly unusual viewpoint and has very interesting & unique features that anyone wanting to understand the war better will surely enjoy researching.



If a member of your family was involved in the first World War, then there may be information to be added to your family tree.

This book will be added to our research materials, very soon.



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.

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