

Vol. 5– May 2016

# 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.)

# JOIN NOW



# ANSWER NOW IN YOUR SOCIETY'S HOUR OF NEED

## Inside this issue...

Next Meeting: May 26th

New Directors Recruitment

## Newsletter News!

### Welcome to the May newsletter

Let's not allow May to pass us by as quickly as April has come and gone. We look forward all winter to once again get outside, do a little clean-up & explore a bit further from our homes. Seeing everyone in their yards again, the spring colours, the green lawns & budding trees is comforting. So spend every day in May outdoors doing what you like to do. And yes, why not come out to the HEIRS May meeting & catch up with your fellow members for a bit!

### May Meeting

**When: Thursday May 26th, 1:30 PM**

**Where: Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Centre**

*When I joined HEIRS some 5 years ago, then president Doug Horne asked me to help keep the library open on Thursdays. I said, "I can do that!" I didn't know what we had or where it was kept- I had no real duties; I tried to help out and stay out of the way.*

*Then, as I got comfortable, Chris Carter asked me to help him with arranging speakers and topics for meetings. Due to some personal issues, Chris soon passed the job to me - and I found I enjoyed it!*

*Then Edith Woodbridge, a founding member 40 years earlier, stepped down, and we were in need of a newsletter editor. I took that job on, and after some early struggles, a pattern emerged and our current format began.*

*As you can see, no jobs were "assigned" to me. At HEIRS, we are a co-operative group, with each Director taking on only the tasks he or she is comfortable with, and truly wants to do. The group is casual and low-key, friendly and at times a bit silly.*

*We can use more help, and are hoping that some members can volunteer a bit of time, at least occasionally. We offer the new volunteers equal pay with us old-timers right from the start - that is, none.*

*Think about joining us- you could help identify photos, scan pictures and files into the computer, cut obituary notices from newspapers and enter them into scrapbooks, even general shelf and cupboard cleanup, and more.*

*If you are finding too much time on your hands, consider donating some of it to HEIRS.*

*You may very well find out you enjoy it, almost as much as I do!! - Ted Steele*



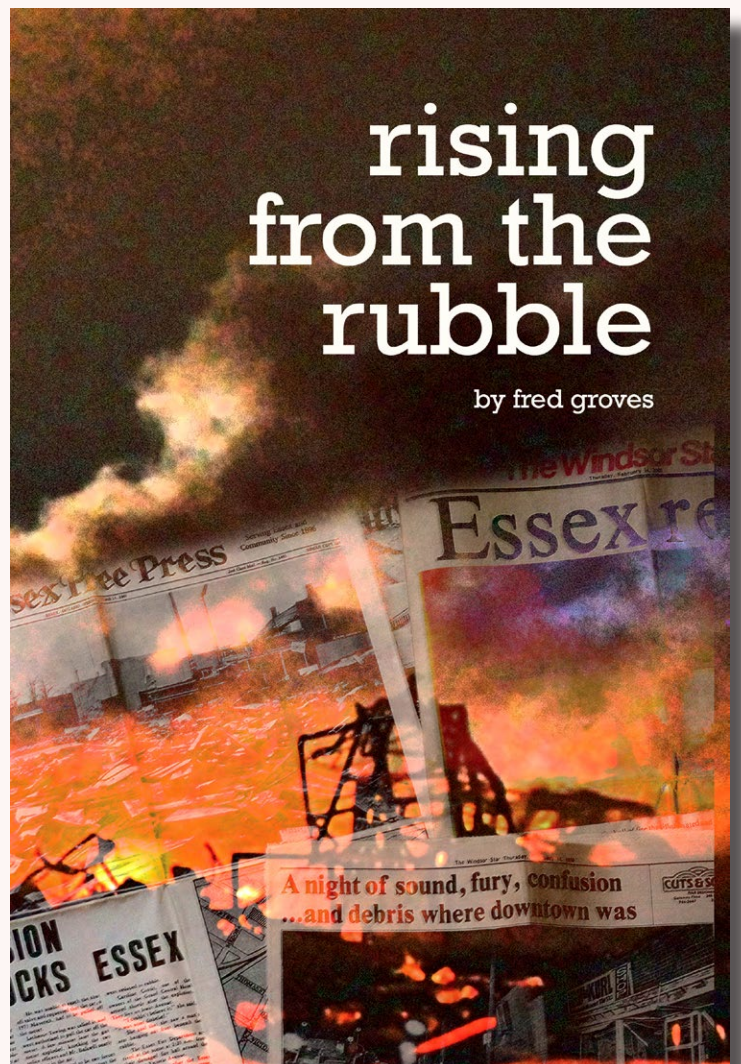
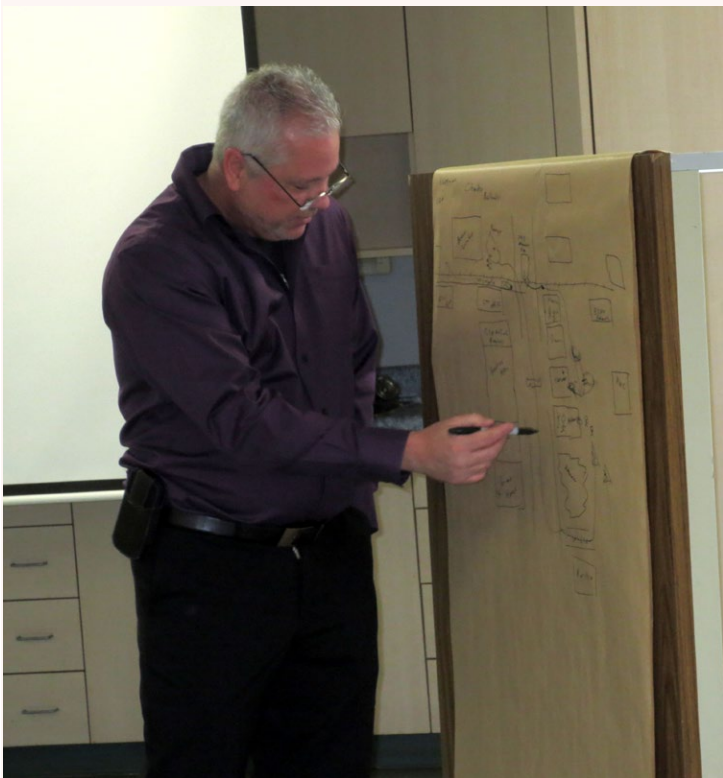
***On Thursday, April 28, HEIRS members heard Fred Groves tell of the massive explosion in downtown Essex on Valentine's Day, 1980.***

*Fred took us through the events leading up to the blast, its real causes, and the extensive damage to the downtown core. He easily tied events to specific people well known to many in the audience, and brought the disaster back in vivid recall.*

*Fred pointed out that the timing of the blast, early in the morning, undoubtedly saved lives, as businesses were empty when glass and many objects were propelled at high speed over considerable distances.*

*Though structural damage was high, the number of people injured could have been much worse.*

*We are indebted to Fred for sharing the story and telling us "the real facts".*



## 4 Recent Events

*The spring and summer event season of activity for HEIRS began in April, as we offered our course on genealogy for beginners as part of Eldercollege's Spring Semester.*

*We were joined by 9 interested seniors at the Seasons Retirement Home in Amherstburg on April 13, where we spent 2 hours discussing how to gather family information from different sources, how to make use of a few internet sites as sources, and how to organize the information into useable form.*



*Then, on April 20, a week later, we all met at the HEIRS Research Centre to explore the files, books and documents there, as our "students" were able to seek out the treasures in our files to kick start their family tree research.*

*Special thanks to HEIRS directors Kathy Langlois and Jo-Ann Jenereaux, who added their skills and their knowledge of the early French families of the region, which was of much use to our visitors.*



*HEIRS then took part in the Amherstburg History Festival over the weekend of April 23-24, an event sponsored by the Amherstburg Provincial Marine, a naval military re-enactment group.*

*Local history groups were invited to attend, and we were joined by Bill Brundage of the Bois Blanc Blockhouse Restoration Committee, also an HEIRS member.*



*The Provincial Marine provided musket demonstrations, cannon fire salutes through the day, a First Nations dance demonstration and a colonial sing song.*

*HEIRS displayed some of the books available to buy through our Resource Centre, as well as handouts and our own promotional materials.*



*A display case showing some of the artifacts recovered from the restoration of the block*

*house was set up as part of the HEIRS offering, and was of interest to many spectators.*



*Directors Kathy Langlois, Chris Carter, Richard Herniman, and Ted Steele maintained our presence over both days, and made HEIRS a bit better known to those attending.*



## 6 Upcoming Events



### HEIRS recently received the following communication:

"The March meeting was one of the best ever. Cris Kohl was interesting & knew how to use the microphone well. We could hear every word, & enjoyed his presentation".

The **Bois Blanc Blockhouse** again opens to receive visitors beginning May 1st. Bill Brundage will be on-site to give tours every Sunday from 1 to 5 PM, and is usually available for groups to visit on weekdays if reservation is made. Plans for some very interesting summer events involving the island are in the works as well. Contact Bill at 519-736-2330.



### Don't Miss It...

The **Kingsville Historical Museum** on Division Street South, Kingsville, is having its annual fund-raising yard sale from May 13 to 23 at, and in the Museum.

Donations of household items are always welcomed, but please no "soft" items such as furniture or bedding. All items are cleaned and checked for quality before being displayed, and quite reasonably priced. Check it out for a few bargains and one-of-a-kind purchases for yourself.

**This is their main fund-raising activity of the year for the group, and they invite community and area support.**

**MAIDSTONE MUSEUM**  
9th Annual  
**War of 1812 Encampment**

**Speakers:**

- John Norton, Mohawk Chief
- Provincial Marine, Amherstburg
- Maidstone Voyageurs
- Caldwell Rangers, Fort Malden

**10 am - 5 pm**  
ADMISSION: Adults: \$6.00  
Children 12 & under: \$3.00

**For More Information Call:**  
**519-727-8811**  
**1093 Puce Road**

Logos: Amherstburg, Parks Canada, Provincial Marine Amherstburg

Map: County Rd. 42, Manning Rd., 1093 Puce Rd., Hwy. 401, County Rd. 46

**On May 21 & 22, the annual Maidstone Encampment will be held from 10AM to 5 PM each day.** There will be activities including rope making, finger weaving, camp kitchen, children's military drills, music, artillery demonstrations & more. Re-enactors include Caldwell's Rangers, Maidstone Voyageurs, Fort Malden soldiers, & First Nations, featuring Jim Welheiser as Mohawk Chief John Norton. Daily speakers, a skirmish, BBQ & pie auction are also on the agenda. **Admission \$6 for adults, children under 12 only \$3.**

**Leamington Mersea Historical Society - Annual Summer Bus Tour**  
**Wednesday, July 13th - with our own Chris Carter as tour guide.**



The trolley bus will leave from the parking lot of the Kingsville District High School at 9AM and travel through Essex County to explore its "hidden gems", returning to Kingsville by 1PM.

Chris has planned a tour of the county to include the vanished communities of Salem, Broadwell's Corners, Bulgetown, Inman, Young Ireland, Olinda, Elmwood, Blytheswood, Oakland, Maple Grove, Roslyn, Strangefield, Windfall, Goldsmith, Union, and Albertville.

The major stop will be the agricultural museum on Highway 77 near Comber.

**Tickets just \$25 per person (by cash or cheque payable to):**  
**Leamington Mersea Historical Society**

Call Paul at 519-326-1691 or email [pbunnettjones@cogeco.ca](mailto:pbunnettjones@cogeco.ca).

**The trolley is always a fun-filled way to explore our county.**  
**This tour event is open to all.**

## The John Quick genealogy DVD

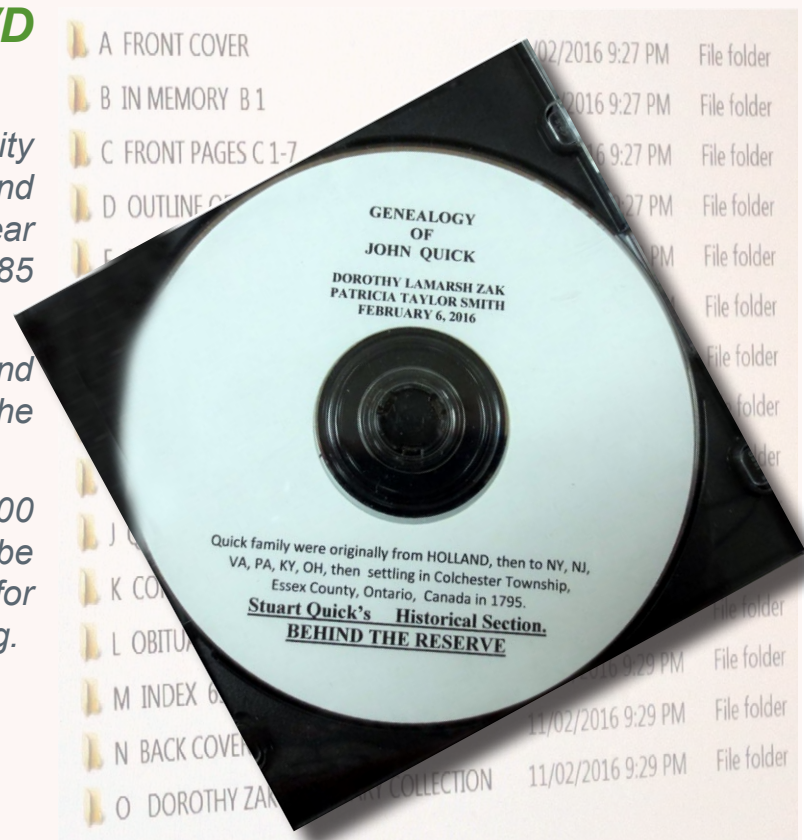
- now available at HEIRS.

The DVD was donated through the generosity of Dr. Stuart Quick, Patricia Taylor Smith and Dorothy LaMarsh Zak. This was a 44 year project. The DVD includes 1,018 pages and 785 photographs in the genealogy section.

The historical section has 198 pages and illustrations. All proceeds from the sale of the DVD will be donated to HEIRS.

The cost of the DVD or Thumb Drive is \$30.00 (postage & shipping included). It can also be picked up at the HEIRS Resource Centre for \$25.00. Payment is due at the time of ordering.

**Contact HEIRS at 519-738-3700 or email [hheritage@bellnet.ca](mailto:hheritage@bellnet.ca). Resource Centre hours are Tuesday & Thursday, 10 to 3**





**May 12**

*James H. Bruner, son of John Bruner, married Hazel Shepley, daughter of Ernest. Will live at Arner, and is in the fishing business with John Bruner.*

*Council ex-treasurer James H. Brown died, aged 83. Was married to Louisa Thompson; one daughter Josie, Mrs. Robert Martin. He was appointed treasurer in 1891, taught school at S. S. 6. East Harrow.*

**May 19**

*Hilliard Hurst will open his restaurant in Hillsville on June 1st.*

*The factory and property of the Harrow Cannery were offered for sale, but no bid made which the company would accept. This is a real blow to the community.*

**May 26**

*The bowling club was reorganized: Honorary President J. E. Russ; President I. E. Webster; Vice president W. H. Ferriss; Secretary-Treasurer C. W. Cornwall; Chaplain J. H. Madill.*

*The Harrow Creamery started out with excellent pasture and response.*

*Problem getting enough water for the builders; may have to pipe it from the other factory.*

**Reminder...**

*HEIRS can convert your media to a more updated form for you. If you need audio cassettes moved to CD, or even transferring VHS videotapes onto DVD format, we offer the service right here at HEIRS. If you have family reunions, or early family gatherings, weddings, etc. on VHS, they are subject to aging and damage due to a magnet scrambling the recordings.*

*Tapes also become dry, and crack or break easily. If tension in the cassette is damaged saving the material on it is not easy. Consider having these one-of-a-kind treasures duplicated or updated before an unfortunate event brings regrets.*

*It's never fun to play the 'I shoulda' game!*



## “History As It Used to Was”

- by Ted Steele, HEIRS Director

**We all know that Canada’s history is a blend of events involving the French, the British and the Indian natives. It is interesting to me to look at how much each group has affected not only the history, but also the language, of Canada today.**

Since the Native groups did not have an alphabet or a written language, their words are difficult to trace back to origins. Even so, we are indebted to them for place names like Saskatchewan, Ottawa and Niagara, and for everyday words such as toboggan and moccasins, to name just a few.

The French have had a greater effect on our speech, as many “English” words are directly taken from the French language, which is much older than our current English. A newsletter earlier this year mentioned “parler” as an example of a root word for many Canadian terms. Another good example is the word “cheval”, French for “horse”.

In olden times, the lord of the manor owned the land and was rich; he would often ride a horse, and be termed a “chevalier”, or horseman. The English equivalent would be a “cavalier”, a horse-riding swordsman of the 1500s. This gradually morphed into the word for a mounted army unit, or “cavalry”.

A person who acts better than others would display a cavalier attitude, portraying himself as superior to those around him. It seems likely to me that the code of conduct of the

fabled Knights of the Round Table, chevaliers of course, gave rise to the term “chivalry”, proper conduct for a gentleman.

There is logic at work in the evolution of language after all! The flow of words is not all from French to English; in my classroom, I often noticed the departing French teacher on Friday wish the students a “bon weekend”, and I am sure that is a recent addition to the French vocabulary!

**Some other fascinating (at least to me) word derivations...**

### **SHODDY:**

Left-over bits of broken wool were woven into a rough yarn known as “shoddy”. Any material made of this would be of lower quality, and certainly never used in “Sunday go to meeting” clothes. Originally the material was called “shoddy”, and eventually any product of low quality was described in similar fashion.

### **SPINSTER:**

At first, any female who worked at spinning with the spinning wheel was a spinster. However, this dull and never-ending task was often assigned to an unmarried sister or aunt, who could “earn her keep” in this way.

Since family occasionally needed the woman’s talents over many years, she sometimes remained at home and unmarried due to this sense of obligation. The word gradually came to mean any unmarried woman.

# HEIRS Resource Centre

September to June (excluding December)

Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM - 3PM

Wednesday or for other appts. Call to confirm.

**TIME  
TO PAY  
YOUR DUES!**

## Memberships

**\$25 CDN/US per person or couple: May 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017**

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

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

## 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 printing & mailing costs of B&W copies by regular post. Simply provide your email address to our office.**

## THANK YOU

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



## Board of Directors

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**Richard Herniman**  
herniman5@sympatico.ca

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cdcarter002@gmail.com

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**John Brush**  
jmb1@xplornet.com

### Secretary

**Kathy Langlois**  
kathyl@msni.net

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### Resource Centre

**Pauline Baldwin**  
baldwin1@xplornet.com

**Kathy Langlois**  
kathyl@msni.net

### Program / Publicity

**Chris Carter**  
cdcarter002@gmail.com

**Ted Steele**  
twsteele@sympatico.ca  
519 733-3456

### Membership

**Richard Herniman**  
herniman5@sympatico.ca

### Hospitality

**Ann Brush**  
jmb1@xplornet.com

**Esther Meerschaut**

### Newsletter

**Ted Steele**  
twsteele@sympatico.ca