

Vol. 1 – January 2013

HEIRS. *newsletter*

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society



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Harrow & Colchester South
Community Centre (Arena Bldg.)



Inside this Issue...

January's meeting:

- The Matthew Elliott Homestead

Newsletter News!

Yes, we are a bit early for January's newsletter for sure.

But with all the seasonal activities beginning, we want to be sure you received your latest edition to plan for December activities and to have a sneak peek our 2013 meeting line up too.

January: We'll take a look back at Matthew Elliott - fur trader, UEL, slave owner.

February: Our guest speaker will highlight Black History Month for us.

March: Road trip to the Kingsville Archives, to learn about all the resources available to assist our fellow genealogists and family history buffs.

And in April.... well let's keep a few surprises for later on.

So here's to a great holiday season of peace, joy and contentment for your families. **Cheers!**

January's Meeting

When: Thursday, January 24th, 1:30 PM

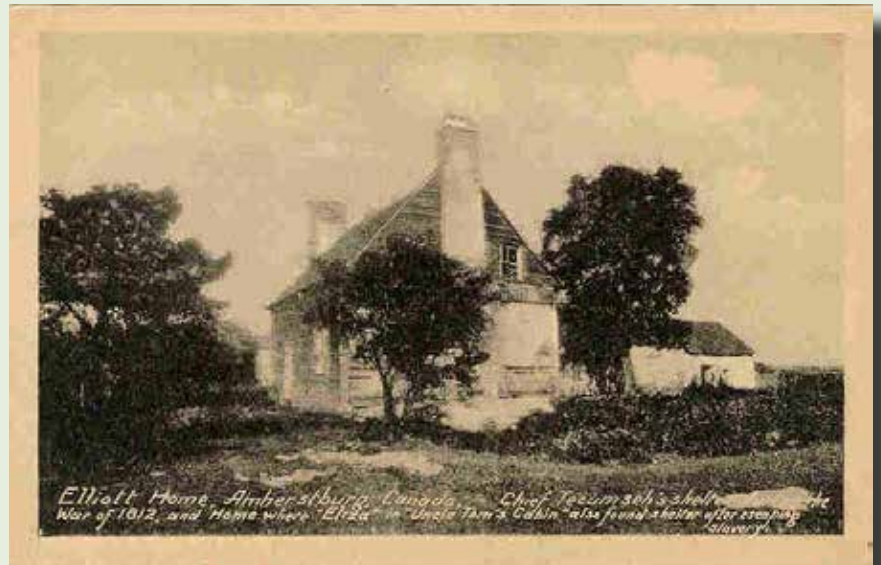
Where: Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Centre

Our speaker in January will be Kirk Walstedt. He is a local lawyer, past member of Maidstone Township council and former Reeve of that township. Kirk is active in many other organizations, including ECHRS, and has a strong interest in the early history of Essex County.

Matthew Elliott was a fur trader, United Empire Loyalist and slave owner, who built a large house along the Detroit River in the 1790s. He was a colleague of Simon Girty, William Caldwell, and Alexander McKee, all major players in the Indian Department, maintaining Indian loyalty to the British cause. He was also an active participant in the War of 1812.

Some years ago, the Matthew Elliott homestead was purchased with a commercial building planned for that site.

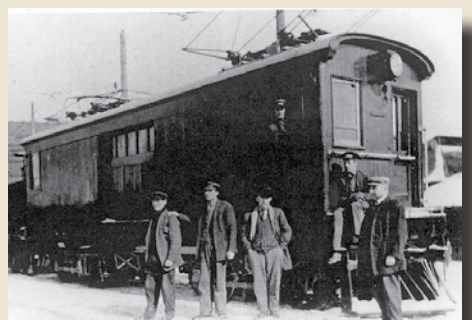
Kirk was part of the group given permission to do an archaeological "dig" at the site before construction began, and will speak on what was found, and what was learned about Elliott and his times.



Windsor, Essex & Lake Shore Rapid Railway

On Thursday, November 22, Bob Lynch presented a talk and visual presentation on the electric rail system, which serviced most municipalities of Essex County as well as Windsor, during the first 30 years of the 20th century. He discussed its beginnings as a reliable and fast public transportation system, and its impact on the communities along its route. Businesses used the railway to move freight as well, and it also served as a major link in moving people and goods from Ohio to Detroit by connecting with various steamships crossing Lake Erie.

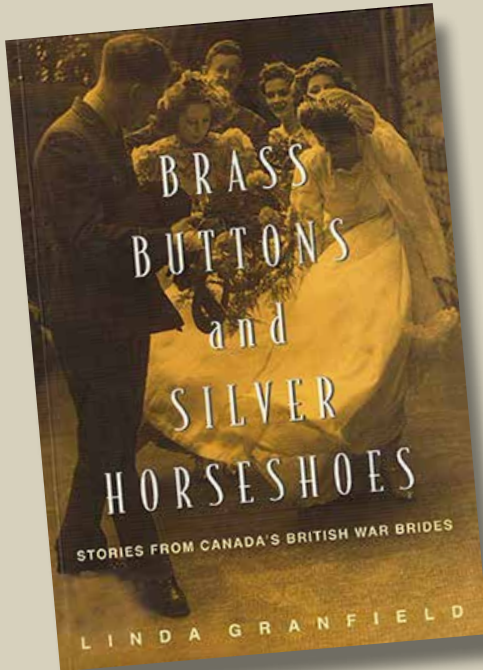
The depression of the 1930s, the rise of isolationist policies in the United States, and more people preferring to own a car rather than take public transit were major reasons for the demise of the system. It is now a barely remembered part of Essex County history, but Bob's many photos of Leamington, Harrow and Kingsville, among other locales, allowed us to peek back at "the way it used to be".



4 Available from the HEIRS Library

Brass Buttons & Silver Horseshoes

- by Linda Granfield



Paperbound, 138 pages, many B&W photos of wartime couples and their beginnings.

Available from the HEIRS lending library.

This wonderful book is a collection of memories as told by a number of war brides, women who met Canadian servicemen during WW2 and eventually came to Canada to begin their married lives and start families. The brass buttons refer to the buttons on the military uniforms, and the silver horseshoes were usually made of paper and given to brides for luck.

The stories reflect real people in a different time....lives might well be shortened because of the war, happiness might be fleeting, and times were economically difficult as well due to rationing of basic items. As these women look back, some have happy stories of welcoming family members, and of building the future together.

Others tell of unwelcome receptions, difficult relationships and marriages that did not last. All, however, have one common thread, Canada has become their home and they consider it the best place to be. Through hard times, a new life in a new place was established, and they express no regrets about that.

It entertains and explains much about a recent part of the lives of many Canadian women.

Kingsville 1790-2000

A Stroll Through Time, Volumes 1 & 2

Printed and published in 2003 by the Kingsville-Gosfield Heritage Society, these 2 books contain 382 pages each, and include a thorough index of names.

Many black and white photos, both old and new, are included. Massive amounts of information are presented in an easy-to-read style.

The history of neighbouring communities, now gone, such as Olinda and Arner, are covered, including schools, churches and businesses, and the families who laid the foundation for our community of today. It is thorough, without having the aspect of a history text, and is really a print-and-photo scrapbook, a "stroll through time".



Available from the HEIRS lending library.

December 18th

A candlelight Christmas in traditional style of the 1840's, 7 PM at the Homestead. Come wassailing, make an ornament to keep, listen to a reading of "A Visit From St Nicholas" and more. Enjoy hot cider and traditional snacks made from scratch and cooked on the open fireplace. Each family will receive a special holiday gift to take as a souvenir. Admission is \$15 per person, pre-registration required. Register online at www.onlineregistrations.ca/jrph.

A PIONEER'S CHRISTMAS

The pioneer home was decorated with green branches and various homemade decorations. Pine cones, nuts, berries and popcorn chains were used to decorate their homes, but Christmas trees did not become common before Queen Victoria popularized them. Figures or dolls made out of straw or yarn were popular gifts for children. Cookie dough ornaments and gingerbread men were also traditional decorations.

The Christmas dinner and preparation of the food began weeks ahead of time. The Christmas goose was fattened up and the plum pudding was left to age in the pot until Christmas Day. Making gifts for the family members (corn husk dolls, sachets, carved wooden toys, pillows, footstools, and embroidered hankies) took time. Scarves, hats, mitts and socks had to be knitted, and girls were taught to knit before they were 6 years old. Boys would make wooden items and boxes for presents. Stockings were hung on the fireplace. Cookies and fruit might also be found in these stockings.

Christmas Eve was a night for telling stories around the fireplace, singing Christmas carols and sharing memories. On Christmas Day, the whole family attended church and returned home to an elaborate Christmas meal. Then it was time to visit relatives, friends and neighbours. This was a much anticipated celebration for the whole family unit.



Christmas
at the
Black Museum

Renee King Jackson
Soprano

Madelyn Porter
actor

Wednesday
Dec. 19, 2012 at 7:00 pm
277 King St., Amherstburg

\$30
Call 519-736-5433
or purchase online at

www.blackhistoricalmuseum.org
Seating limited to 100 guests
Christmas dessert buffet included



6 **Upcoming Events**

Last Spring, HEIRS offered, as part of the Eldercollege series of courses, an introduction to genealogy called “Finding The Skeletons In Your Family Closet”.

It will again be offered in early March, with the first 2-hour session in the newly renovated Carnegie Library building in Kingsville, and the second session two weeks later at the HEIRS library in Harrow. We will get you started in tracking your own roots, and introduce the software to make it organized and easy for you to access. More information will be found in the next (February) HEIRS newsletter.



Finding the Skeletons In Your family's Closet



e-Weekly

news from the ontario genealogical society

September 22, 2012

Announcing a new Certificate Design Competition

Create a design for a new Heritage Society certificate for The Ontario Genealogical Society.

As an addition to our current heritage clubs and societies, OGS is developing the **Fathers of Confederation Society** for genealogists who can prove they are descended from one of Canada's iconic Fathers of Confederation.

OGS needs a striking certificate for members of the **Fathers of Confederation Society** to proudly display.

Prize: \$500

Deadline: January 31, 2013

Design Criteria

Each 8.5" x 11" certificate design must have:

- the OGS logo present somewhere on the certificate (electronic copy of the logo may be obtained by contacting OGS provincial office provoffice@ogs.on.ca)
- space for the name(s) of applicant(s)
- space for the name of qualifying ancestor
- space for the date of issue and signature of the OGS president
- room for the OGS seal measuring 5.5 cm in diameter

Visit the [OGS website](#) to view examples of other certificates.

While you may submit your entry in a format of your choice, please be aware that the OGS office is a PC environment.

The winner will be contacted in March 2013 and the certificate will be launched at The Ontario Genealogical Society's Annual Conference May 31-June 2 2013.

Please submit entries and any questions to provoffice@ogs.on.ca

OGS Library Catalogue



From the HEIRS mailbag...

***We continue to gain new members as our group becomes better-known.
Don't forget to tell YOUR family members about who we are and what we do.***

A heads up for the HEIRS Pasta Dinner fundraiser, in early March. This event, with great community support, allows HEIRS to hire students to help during the summer.

HEIRS wishes to thank Questors Group for their donation to our organization. With such support, we continue to be able to serve the community.

You can qualify for The War of 1812 Heritage Society by proving, to genealogical standards of evidence, that you have an ancestor who fought to preserve the freedom of Canada during the War of 1812. A British soldier, based in what is now Canada during the war years, a Canadian militia unit member, or a native who saw action on the British side during the war. See the OGS (Ontario Genealogical Society) website for the application form.

Join the club and honour your Ontario ancestors!

Membership is easy; provide one document showing when your ancestors settled in Ontario. For information contact the Ontario Genealogical Society...

**www.ogs.on.ca
(Heritage Societies Centenary Club)
or call OGS at 416-489-0734**

Family in Ontario for...
200+ years, get GOLD status,
150-199 years, SILVER;
100 to 149 years, BRONZE status.

Got Questions?

Drop us a line by snail mail,
email or by phone.

Our resources are here to
help you discover your own
family history.



January 3

No elections; C H Bassett, reeve; councillors were Henry Heaton, John Ridsdale, Edward Snider, Angus E Wright; trustees were Charles Clark, F H Ferriss, W H Ferriss.

January 17

Joseph Best died of Bright's Disease. Son of the late Joseph Best who lived on the 1st concession Potlake Road. He was a British pensioner and settled in Amherstburg, later moving to Potlake, then to Harrow and died there. Joseph Jr was born May 4 1841, and was one of 9 children, of which only one is living, that being William, village clerk. He first married Eliza Baldwin, sister of W G Baldwin, this union being childless; then he married Euphemia Thornton, half sister of Margaret Fisher Ferriss (Mrs. Thomas).

Their children were Mrs Charles McCaffrey, Windsor; Ethel, Mrs Gordon Quick of Harrow; Lillian, Mrs. John Swegles of Windsor; Ella, widow of Eli Iler, Windsor.

January 24

Herman Klie bought the Francis Fox block (formerly the Aldrich block). he has carried on his business there for some time; Miss Hughson and E. F. Darby are lessees of the building. He purchased it from Mrs. F Fox for \$4 000.

A municipal phone line is being put on the 4th concession by George Catherwood and 9 others. Council asked to build the line, charge cost to subscribers, collecting it in the yearly tax rate. This is the first line of its kind in the township.

Here to help!

Need copies of negatives or prints?
Need videos copied?
Audiotapes burned to CD?

HEIRS can help.
Call us for more information.



Hours of Operation: September to June (excluding December)

Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM to 3PM / **Wednesday:** 9AM to 12 Noon

Please call for appointments for other times.

Memberships

Now Due: May 2012 to April 2013: \$20 per person / couple (CDN / U.S.)

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

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

Non-member user fee for HEIRS Research Library, beginning Jan. 2013, \$5 / visit (+ photocopy costs).

HEIRS Newsletter

The HEIRS newsletter is 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).

Newsletters via Email

If you currently receive our newsletter by mail and would prefer to receive it by email, simply provide your email address to any one of our newsletter committee members. Not only will you be able to archive the full colour newsletter PDF easily on your computer, it will save HEIRS the extra handling, reproduction and mailing costs.

Special thanks to Greg Harrison at the Computer Centre in Harrow, for his ongoing support of all things technical, setting up our new equipment, and keeping things running smoothly.



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