

Vol. 5 May, 2012

H.E.I.R.S.

newsletter

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society



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.)



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May 24th Meeting:
Pot Luck Dinner / Heirlooms Display

H.E.I.R.S. – Skeletons in Your Closet
- an ElderCollege Course Success Story

Welcome to the May 2012 edition of the H.E.I.R.S. newsletter.

Edith Woodbridge

- a changing of the guard at H.E.I.R.S.

Since the very founding of HEIRS, just over 40 years ago, the one constant fixture in the group has been Edith Woodbridge.

Edith has been the President, Newsletter creator, editor, publisher and the featured speaker at numerous monthly meetings. Edith has served as Director on the board of HEIRS, and kept the group moving ahead with new ways to be of service to the local community. Several times, I have personally been amazed at the vast amount of local history and genealogy at her fingertips; a surname will be mentioned and Edith knows the entire background on that person. She has been a storehouse of knowledge, a leader and motivator, and a steady guiding hand as other members of the board have come and gone.

Edith feels the time has come to pass the torch to a new group, while she steps back to enjoy other interests. We at HEIRS, and the entire local community owe much to her. Thank you Edith.

Our May meeting will include an election of Directors, as we move on and fill the empty spot Edith leaves behind. We will carry on, but always be aware of the tremendous resource she provided to HEIRS. **She cannot be replaced, and she will be missed.**



Next meeting: Thursday May 24, 6:30PM

Pot Luck Dinner - bring your own plate / cutlery.

The May meeting of HEIRS will be held in the meeting room of the Harrow-Colchester South Arena. Our theme has 2 focal points: the first is the nomination and election of Directors for H.E.I.R.S., which requires 9 people willing to serve. This involves meetings approximately every 2 months to discuss matters concerning the activities in which H.E.I.R.S. plays a role.

The second theme will be a display of various articles and heirlooms of historical interest or even curiosity. Some of these come from the H.E.I.R.S. collection, while others are loaned for the meeting by Directors or various other members willing to share some family treasures.

If you have any items which could be displayed, please contact the H.E.I.R.S. office or any Director to make arrangements for your items to be included. Our cover image shows the type of items that can be seen at our May meeting. They include a 1919 post card, 1930's rocking horse, a 1909 Bible & WW2 Meat Ration token.



This image shows a flower petal pressed between pages of a Bible for 100-years. **Someone's special occasion lives on.**

April Meeting Recap - Barnardo Boys

Grace Austin presented the story of the British Home Children who were sent to Canada to serve as farm labour, & hopefully be taken care of properly by the families that accepted them as foster children. She first explained the social backdrop of the Industrial Revolution, overcrowding of England's cities and the poverty in which many families lived. For various reasons, children could not be taken care of in a family setting, with no social agencies to offer aid.

Eventually missionaries and social agencies were involved, and they saw the chance to offer these children a new start in a new land...Canada. Some were well cared for, and accepted as part of the family; others were not so fortunate, and met with neglect, or abuse. In all, about 100,000 children came to Canada – many have descendants in this area.

Grace and her husband Doug put a personal touch on the presentation; Doug is descended from a Barnardo Boy, and they have traced his travels back to England and the ship that brought him to Canada. They also showed the group a wooden box which was made by one of the children. Each child was given a similar box, and provided with basic clothing and a few other items to help them get a new start. Old photos showing the Austin family's roots here were displayed. It was a most interesting and informative talk, as we have come to expect from Grace and Doug Austin. *Top photo courtesy of Heather Gignac, Harrow News*



From the H.E.I.R.S. mailbox...



You may recall Col. Alex Jefferson, a Tuskegee Airman, who was an HEIRS speaker last year. He spoke of his experiences during WW II, and how difficult it was to be accepted as an equal by his white counterparts. We have often been told that meeting was the best HEIRS has had in the last few years!

“A new movie titled **Red Tails**, which depicts the challenges and heroism of the Tuskegee Airmen, hit theatres in January of 2012. This movie was produced by George Lucas, of *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* fame. On the *Tom Joyner Morning Show*, he discussed the challenges he had getting this movie into the theatres.

He could not find anyone in Hollywood willing to invest the marketing dollars. Hollywood investors said that they just didn't know how well an “all-black action movie” would play with movie going audiences.

As a result, Lucas, Oprah Winfrey and Tyler Perry put up \$35 million to get the film shown in theatres. The total cost of the film was \$100 million.

The challenge to all of us is to prove Hollywood wrong; let's get the word out to see a movie that shows the accurate history and determination of real American heroes. We spend the money to see fictional characters like Lara Croft, Indiana Jones, Luke Skywalker, Jason Bourne, James Bond and the like. **Now let's go out to see real heroes depicted in the movies.**”

- with permission from *The Talking Drum*, newsletter of the Black History Museum in Amherstburg



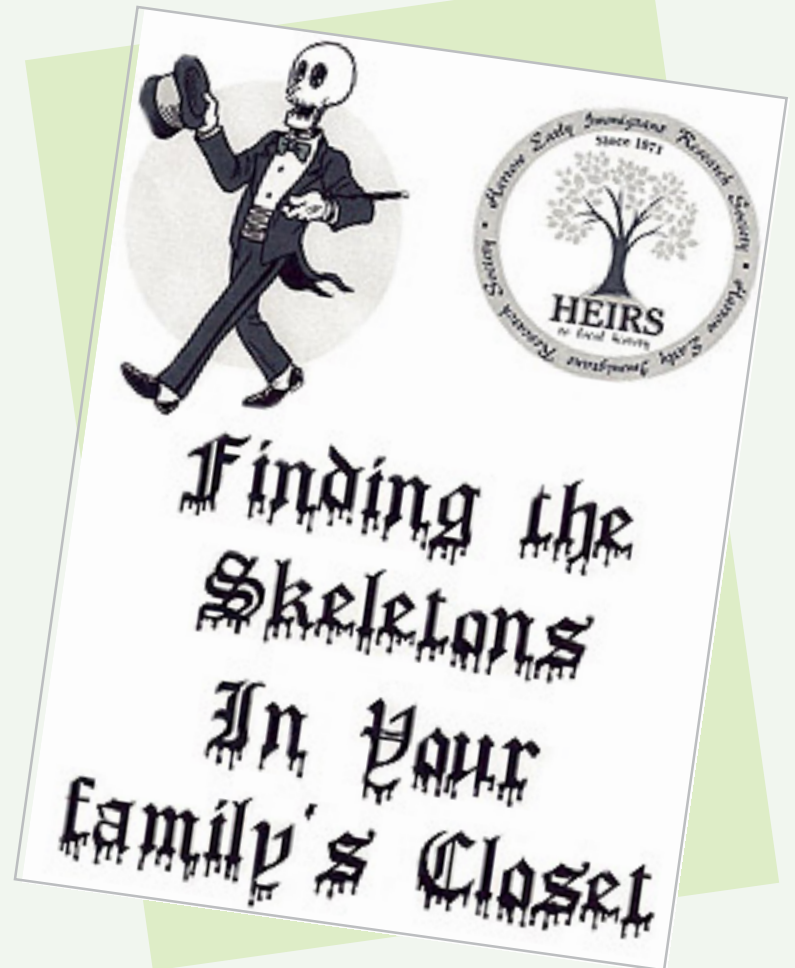
H.E.I.R.S. ElderCollege Course - a rousing success.

H.E.I.R.S. held a pair of classes in April as part of the ElderCollege series of courses for seniors around Essex County.

On April 2, approximately 20 seniors met at the Essex Public Library for Part A of *Finding The Skeletons and Treasures In Your Family Closet*. For 90 minutes, we discussed why a family tree should be done, how to get it started and how to organize the information into usable form.

Two weeks later, on April 16, approximately 22 seniors met at the H.E.I.R.S. Research Centre in Harrow, to learn what sources of information were available, and how the staff of H.E.I.R.S. can be of assistance in discovering the roots of their families. Many felt it was an eye-opening experience to find such a great range of materials available so close to home, and with H.E.I.R.S. volunteers ready and willing to guide and assist.

In this instance, ElderCollege was certainly a hit with the seniors, several of whom were already enrolled in other courses currently offered.



Participants were welcomed at the H.E.I.R.S. Resource Centre with staff providing advice during the second part of the ElderCollege Course on genealogical research.



Available from your H.E.I.R.S. Resource Centre

Mail orders available.

Taking the 'Lectric

The Story of the Windsor, Essex & Lake Shore Rapid Railway

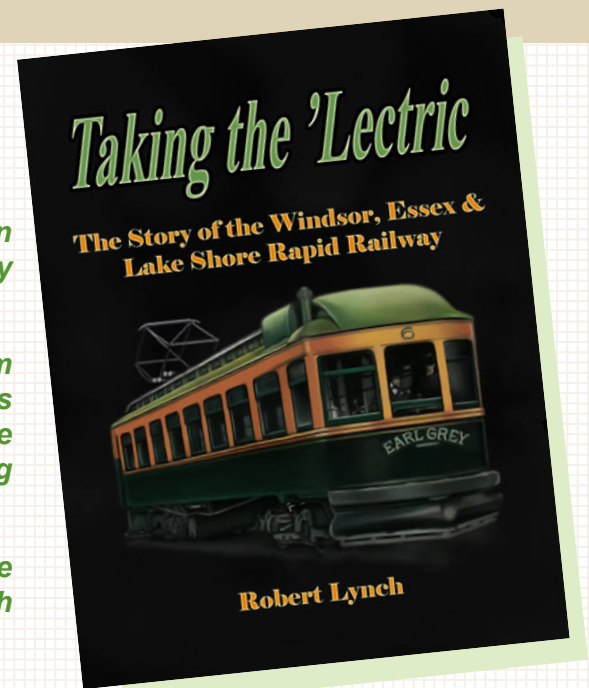
- by Robert Lynch

Taking the 'Lectric is the story of an electric car system that ran through Essex County to Leamington. The book is a factual history with a few fictional characters inserted to tie the years together.

Included within is a list of some of the employees gleaned from newspaper accounts and interviews with relatives. The accidents are real as are the obstacles faced. If you look closely, the route can still be seen in various places, as can a few of the remaining buildings.

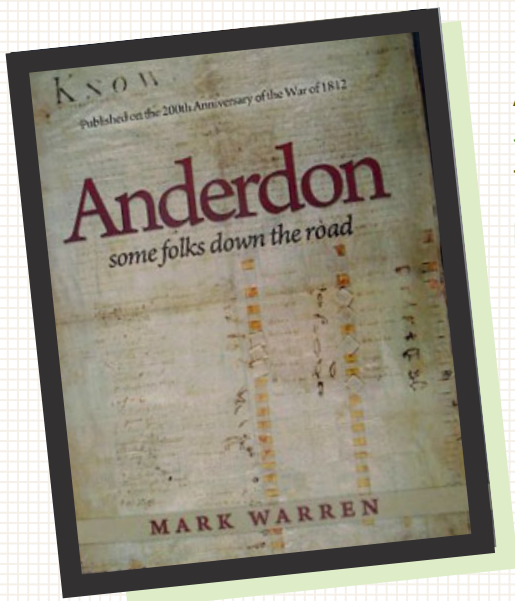
The WE&LS provided rapid, inexpensive transportation for the people of Essex County during the first quarter of the twentieth century. Some wish it were so today. - book cover

Bob, a retired elementary school teacher, spent 6 hours every Tuesday at H.E.I.R.S researching information on the railroad. He used newspapers from the era including the Kingsville Reporter, Essex Free Press and Motor City Star to discover special anecdotes.



Softcover, 355 pages with photos throughout, includes list of former employees. Available through H.E.I.R.S... \$25.00

**TO ORDER:
Contact HEIRS
at 519-738-3700**



Anderdon

some folks down the road

- by Mark Warren

Mark Warren grew up in the Amherstburg area. He attended Assumption College School in Windsor and worked summers at the Anderdon Quarry of Allied Chemical. He is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario and has been a producer for CBC Radio.

His book, *Anderdon*, covers the pioneer era from the creation of the Huron Reserve in 1790 to 1920. It tells of neighbourly folks, confidence men, notorious villains and battlefield glory. It discusses the genealogy of Wyandot, white and black settlers of Anderdon.

In all, 74 families are traced in detail, with hundreds of surnames mentioned in the telling of the various stories. There are images, treaties, documents from the Smithsonian Institute, the Washington Library of Congress and the Ontario Archives. A collection of public domain maps is also included.

A copy of the book is available for research at H.E.I.R.S.
For an overview of the book, visit www.anderdon1812.com.

Large format, text contains 100 images & a 16 x 24 inch, 1877 map of Anderdon Twp. showing location & ownership of many homesteads. Purchase from Gordon House in Amherstburg (519 730-1309), \$53.00 plus 5% tax.

Upcoming Events

May 10, 2012

Southern First Nations Secretariat is holding a 4-person scramble format Golf Tournament on Thursday May 10th, 10AM - shot gun start. Only 36 teams will be accepted: first paid, first played.

The tournament is in support of the “**Rejuvenate Tecumseh’s Vision**” an education day to be held June 2, 2012 at the Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation.

To register or for more information on the golf tournament, contact Darryl van Oirschot at 519 785-0513 or by email at darryl.cfn@live.ca.

Tecumseh Monument Update:

The Tecumseh Monument redevelopment project is moving forward. Funding was received from Heritage Canada to complete an interpretive master plan. The master plan will allow the Friends of the Tecumseh Monument to move forward in their fundraising campaign.

This is the local, not-for-profit group that is heading the redevelopment of the site and they are looking to launch their fundraising campaign sometime in October. The group is currently working on refining their interpretive story line.

If you are interested in this important legacy project or have questions, please contact Lisa Gilbert at lgilbert@ciaccess.com.

The Friends of the Tecumseh Monument will be hosting a public meeting in September to unveil their interpretive master plan. Once a date is chosen, a press release will be issued.

On the Tube...

Sundays 8 PM.

Finding Your Roots (continues)

Uplifting, entertaining & enlightening experience for viewers.





INDOOR YARD SALE

ANNUAL FUND RAISING YARD SALE

MUSEUM

145 DIVISION STREET SOUTH, KINGSVILLE
adjacent to Royal Canadian Legion Br. 188

11 days - from FRIDAY MAY 11th.....
.....**to MONDAY MAY 21st, 2012**

9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*plus recycle depot for all your
unwanted electronic equipment*

*including computers, computer peripherals,
monitors, televisions, printing devices,
scanners, typewriters, cellular phones,
telephones, answering machines, audio and
video players, recorders, cameras, radios,
receivers, turntables and speakers.*



**Computers
for Kids**

A Program of the Ontario Library Association

to benefit Computers for Kids and the Museum

for information - call Katherine or Wayne Gunning at 519-819-4711

MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

5TH ANNUAL WAR 1812 ENCAMPMENT

SATURDAY, MAY 26 & SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2012

ADMISSION

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Adults | 15 ⁰⁰ |
| Children (6-12 yrs.) | 12 ⁰⁰ |

Repeating many of the activities with a change of venue to the afternoon features. "Same Latitude As Rome" is a musical collective of award winning songwriters and musicians originating in Essex County - geographically, the same latitude as Rome, hence the name of the band. They will be performing a collection of their songs that tell the story of the War of 1812 in terms of the many significant events that affected Southern Ontario. So bring your lawn chair and spend the day.

DAILY DEMONSTRATIONS
of Cannon and Musket,
Spinning, Weaving,
Candle Making, Rope
Making, Camp Kitchens
and Much Much
More.

FEATURES
Amherstburg
Provincial Marine, "The Red
Pony" and "The War of 1812"
by the "The War of 1812"
by the "The War of 1812"
by the "The War of 1812"



For info call Victoria at 519-727-8811 or 519-819-5318
Located at 1093 Puce Rd. (Hwy. 401 exit 28)



From the archives of the Amherstburg Echo... 1889

May 3rd

Applications from trustees of S S #2 asking the council to raise, by way of debentures, \$2,500 for purchasing site and erecting a school house for section #2; also from trustees of S S #6, asking the council to raise \$1500 for the purchasing of a site and erecting a school house in that section.

May 10th

One of the latest additions to Harrow's buildings is for Mr. Clark, who will carry on the hardware business therein.

May 17th

Messrs. Pearce and Murchison have purchased the store partly erected by Mr. Clark and will push it to a speedy completion.

There are no less than 6 fishing pounds between Malden town line and Hackett's Dock, and the owners report good catches.

May 23rd

Albert Fox has moved his family out to his country house on the 5th concession, being much more convenient to his mill.

June 7th

The Colchester South Agriculture Society gives Harrow Baseball Club the use of the fair grounds if they take care of the building, fences and ornamental trees lately planted. A new street having been opened from King Street south, the directors intend making the entrance from the west, and will meet Saturday morning to move the office from the east side.

A large tile drain has been placed along the south side of King Street which will carry all the surface water out of the village to the big ditch west. This is a great improvement.

The council has decided to build a 6 foot wide sidewalk from the station to the main street, a distance of 60 rods. It will be built on the west side and work will commence at once.

Interested in one of our HEIRS ball caps?

It features our logo on a quality cap, in your choice of cap colours. I chose white to make the green logo stand out; if you want pink or light blue, *it can be done!*



We need to order a dozen to get them for the bargain price of \$15, tax included. *Let any Director know if you would like to order.*

Been in Ontario over 100 years?

Family member fought for Canada in the War of 1812-14?

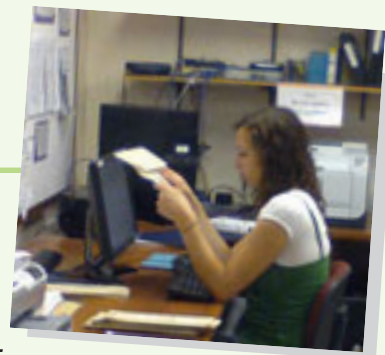
If you can claim either of these in your ancestry, you will be interested in the Heritage Societies at the Ontario Genealogical Society. Go to www.ogs.on.ca, click on "Heritage Societies" on the left hand side for more details.

Also coming soon: 2 new Heritage Societies: **Rebellion of 1837** and **Upper Canada**. The website providing design competitions for the certificates of these 2 new groups can be found above.

Hours of Operation: September to June (excluding December)
Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM to 3PM / Wednesday: 9AM to 12 Noon
Please call for appointments at 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.



HEIRS Newsletter

The HEIRS newsletters are published 9 times per year, in conjunction with General Meetings held on the 4th Thursday of the month, from September through May (with the exception of December).

Newsletters by 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.



Board of Directors

- President** Richard Herniman
herniman5@sympatico.ca
- Vice-President** Chris Carter
cdcarter002@gmail.com
- Treasurer** John Brush
jmb1@xplornet.com
- Secretary** Kathy Langlois
kathyl@msni.net
- Director** Jo Ann Jenereaux

Committee Chairpersons

- Resource Centre** Pauline Baldwin
baldwin1@xplornet.com
- Membership** Richard Herniman
herniman5@sympatico.ca
- Kathy Langlois** kathyl@msni.net
- Hospitality** Les Hodgkins
- Newsletter** Edith Woodbridge
edith.woodbridge@gmail.com
- Program / Publicity** Chris Carter
cdcarter002@gmail.com
- Chris Carter** cdcarter002@gmail.com
- Ted Steele** twsteele@sympatico.ca
- Ted Steele** twsteele@sympatico.ca