

Vol. 6– June 2017

HEIRS

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society

newsletter



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Harrow & Colchester South
Community Centre (Arena Bldg.)



8th Annual
DISCOVER COUNTY ROAD 50
**explore
the shore**
Save the Dates!
July 29 & 30, 2017

Next meeting...

School Memories

Newsletter News!

Welcome to the June newsletter

This is the last newsletter before we return in September.

This gives us all a chance to take a break, retool, renew and refresh over the summer. With our summer students in place, we can move our backlog of scanning, filing, and support for inquiries coming to the HEIRS Resource Centre over the summer break, as well as provide meaningful work for our student. Hours this summer will be Monday-Friday from 9-4PM.

We hope you will enjoy the hot weather predicted for our area, then take the chance to join other members and interested parties at our upcoming meeting in September.

See you there?

Next Meeting

When: Thursday, September 28, 1:30 PM

Where: Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Meeting Room

In September, Director Ted Steele will present a meeting to HEIRS members based on the theme of "Back to School".

No actual names will be used; the teachers mentioned will be referred to as Viola Swamp and Willard Nerdman, 2 obviously fictional names, and the community in which they taught will be called Dismal Seepage. No real names are needed. I had no "terrible" teachers. Some were better than others, or more likeable, but not one could truly be complained about.

What happened when you were a student, what did a teacher "get away with", what was done that was unfair, etc, what teachers could you laugh at, and which ones make you angry when you remember them now?

Please send me your stories (they'll remain anonymous) to either HEIRS or to me at historynut@outlook.com.

We'll also look at some truly inspiring teachers as well.



HEIRS met on May 25 for the final time before summer.

As always, the May meeting included our annual election of Directors for the group; 3 directors - Kathy Langlois, Esther Meerschaut and Pauline Baldwin, indicated their desire to stand for re-election and were unopposed. As a result, the slate of Directors remains unchanged for another year. Five of the Directors are pictured below.



HEIRS DIRECTORS

L to R: Ted Steele, Esther Meerschaut, Kathy Langlois, Richard Herniman & Pauline Baldwin.

Absent: Roger Sinasac, John Brush, Chris Carter & Brian Leslie.

Ted Steele also presented a discussion on United Empire Loyalists - what a Loyalist is, how and why the designation was originally conferred, and why this group of pioneers was so vitally important to the founding of our country.

Ted briefly explained the process to link oneself with a Loyalist ancestor, and the steps to apply for a certificate through the local chapter of the United Empire Loyalists, the Bicentennial Branch here in Essex County.

It was pointed out that HEIRS itself has a very large collection of information on Loyalist families of the area, since Essex County was largely settled through land grants to Loyalists in the 1790's. HEIRS would be happy to assist anyone in their research in this regard.



From the HEIRS mailbag....

HEIRS received a request from Michael Rolls, looking for information on his roots. He says, "We are Baylis, Turners, Saunders and Knights, from my understanding. I believe that Emma Wallace married John Baylis; I believe Emma died in Riverview Hospital in Windsor in 1958. I hear of the name Martha Wilks in the tree, and she may be Native. My mother's full name was Martha Edna Baylis Rolls. It is my belief that Robert, who was a Wallace, came to Colchester from Virginia."

If anyone can contribute more details, please let HEIRS know, and we will put you in contact with Michael or pass the information along.

A second request was received some time ago. It concerns the Mitchell & Graham families in this area. Doug & Suzanne Graham are looking for further details on these individuals - Ray and Alva Mitchell who lived in the Leamington area & owned a farm south of the Heinz plant. The manor house was just before Parkdale Street in Leamington. He may have owned a seed business on Talbot Street during the 1930s.

Also researching, Peter Charles (or Charles Peter) Graham, born 1893, died Nov. 17, 1971. His wife was Sarah Brown (of English descent) from Land's End, England, and came to Canada likely as a teen.

Charles had siblings, Albert, Mary, John, Jane, and William, as well as others not remembered. Charles worked as a train engineer, his route running from Windsor to Detroit via the tunnel.

If you can help, it would be greatly appreciated.

8th Annual
DISCOVER COUNTY ROAD 50
explore the shore
Save the Dates!
July 29 & 30, 2017
Celebrate Canada's
150th Birthday
with period games offered along
County Road 50

The poster features a red banner at the top with the text "8th Annual". Below it, a black outline of a road sign contains the text "DISCOVER COUNTY ROAD 50". The main title "explore the shore" is written in a blue, stylized font. Below the title is a graphic of a landscape with a green hill, a yellow sun, and a blue body of water. The bottom section of the poster has a blue background with a white map of Canada. Large red numbers "150" are displayed, with a red circle containing a white maple leaf and the text "th" next to the zero. Below the numbers, the text "Birthday" is written in black. At the bottom, the text "with period games offered along County Road 50" is written in white, with a small red maple leaf icon next to the number 50.

The Essex County OGS meeting, held in the Windsor Public Library, 850 Ouellette Ave, lower level, meets on **June 6** at 6 PM (not 6:30, as usual), to learn about the Serbian Heritage Museum of Windsor; we will learn of their collection and resources which can assist those researching Serbian roots in their family. **All are welcome!**

On June 9, the Kent County branch of the OGS meets to hear Anne Fisher share information about some of the 400 doctors who practised in this region. This group meets at the McKinlay Funeral Home Reception Centre, 463 St. Clair Street (Hwy. 40 N) in Chatham, and parking is readily available.

The Chimczuk Museum in Windsor hosts “Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance”, with the screening of this film, followed by a discussion on indigenous perspectives on First Nations relationships with Canada, past, present and future. **This will be held either June 17, or 18; please call the Museum for the final date of the presentation.**

On June 24th, the Windsor Museum hosts a tour and talk on “Windsor’s French Roots”, based at the Francois Baby House in downtown Windsor. It begins at 2 PM and is free for all to attend. **Many members have French-Canadian roots and this ought to be very enlightening!**

On Saturday, July 1, HEIRS will again be holding its summer fund-raiser, a BBQ on the sidewalk in front of Sanford’s store. From 11 AM until 1 PM, we will have burgers, hot dogs, cold cans of pop, and bottles of water for lunch on the go.



Just follow the scent of those onions on the grill!

Please stop in and support our continuing efforts to spread interest in the fascinating family information available at our Research Centre, as well as local history in general.

The Leamington Mersea Historic Society will hold its annual Trolley History Tour **on Saturday, July 8**. Leaving Kingsville’s Migration Hall parking lot at 9 AM sharp and returning to the same site by 1 PM.

The trolley will visit many points of interest in Windsor which connect to its fur-trading past, including such stops as the James Baby House, Moy Hall, the Cowan House, Strabaine, and the Rev. Pollard house are included.

Then, off to Amherstburg to enjoy a talk, tour and snack break. We will visit the Gordon House, Pensioners’ Cottage, Navy Yard Park and the Bank of Montreal.

The guide for the day will be noted local historian and author (and HEIRS director) Chris Carter. Tickets for the day are \$30.

To reserve your spot, call the LMHS president Paul Bunnett-Jones at 519-326-1691 or email him at pbunnettjones@cogeco.ca.

6 Upcoming Events

Help us build a comprehensive file of information & photos dealing with the two World Wars.

If you have any family information to contribute, we would like the opportunity to copy it for our records.

Let's gather as much as possible on record for research before it disappears forever.

We are not asking for donations, merely the chance to duplicate materials and so preserve their contents. Those in our families who served and sacrificed deserve to have their stories remembered, and those researching in the future will be grateful to have the materials available to them.



Local FREE summer concerts begin...

Colchester Center Harbour Center

Monday nights at 7:30, starting June 13, hosts its concert season opener.

Essex Centre Heritage Garden (under the Spitfire)

Its concerts begin on Wednesday June 8 at 7:30PM

Leamington (at the Marina)

Concerts start in July, Friday nights

Lakeshore Park Beach

Saturday nights

Robson Road Park (the Marina)

Sunday afternoons from 2-4 PM.

Wheatley 2 Creeks Conservation Area

Hosts large crowds every Sunday night, from 6:30PM. Some events are 'pass the hat' but otherwise free. Bring a lawn chair, buy a hot dog and enjoy all kinds of music, from bluegrass to modern country to good old-time rock and roll.

Check to see what your municipality has to offer.





June 1

J. A. Secord secured the contract for the erection of all the buildings in connection with the Wall Canning Factory, a warehouse 40 by 90 feet, boilers 40 by 90 feet, and corn shed 30 by 100 feet. The 2 former buildings will be of cement block, and the latter of wood. He has sublet the cement work to Mac Halstead. To be completed August 1.

Clarks have struck a flow of 5,000 gallons per hour at a depth of 165 feet, with an 8 inch diameter.

June 15

James McGill is getting along nicely with the new Cedar Creek bridge. Piles are being driven for abutments, and though considerable quicksand was encountered, this difficulty was overcome by "jetting". The temporary bridge has proved its stability by resisting recent floods that swept over it.

June 22

There have been 10 carloads of catsup bottles, 10 carloads of cans and a carload of sugar arriving in Harrow.

August 8

Arthur Agla speculated on some Colchester Village land; built himself a nice cottage, but then sold it to Dr. Walter Hackett for a nice profit, and is starting to build another cottage for himself.

August 17

Harrow is becoming a favourite resort for Detroiters. Good motor roads from Windsor and Amherstburg make it an ideal spot for weekend parties, as well as those wishing to spend an entire vacation. Guests at the Alexandra House held a corn and marshmallow roast Tuesday evening. Success was due to W. D. McVey, the popular host of the Alexandra.

Canada's Little War

- by Carman Miller

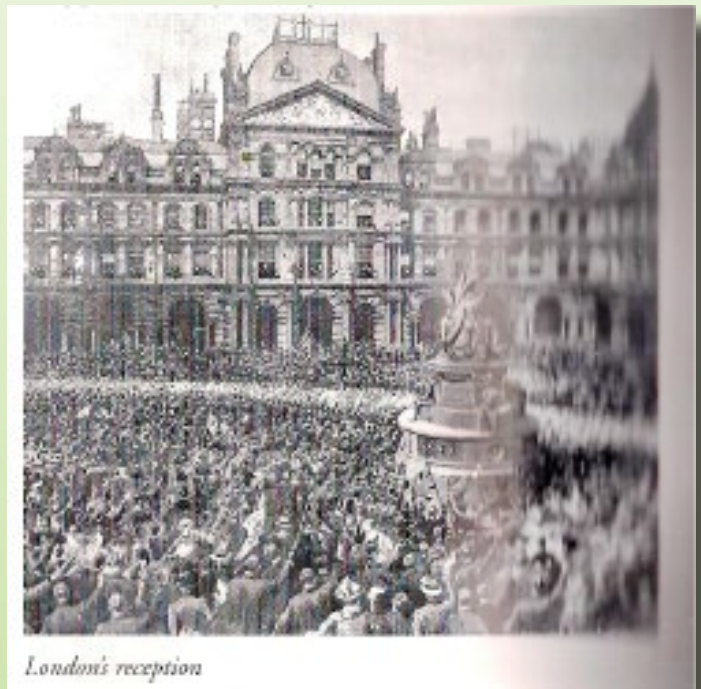
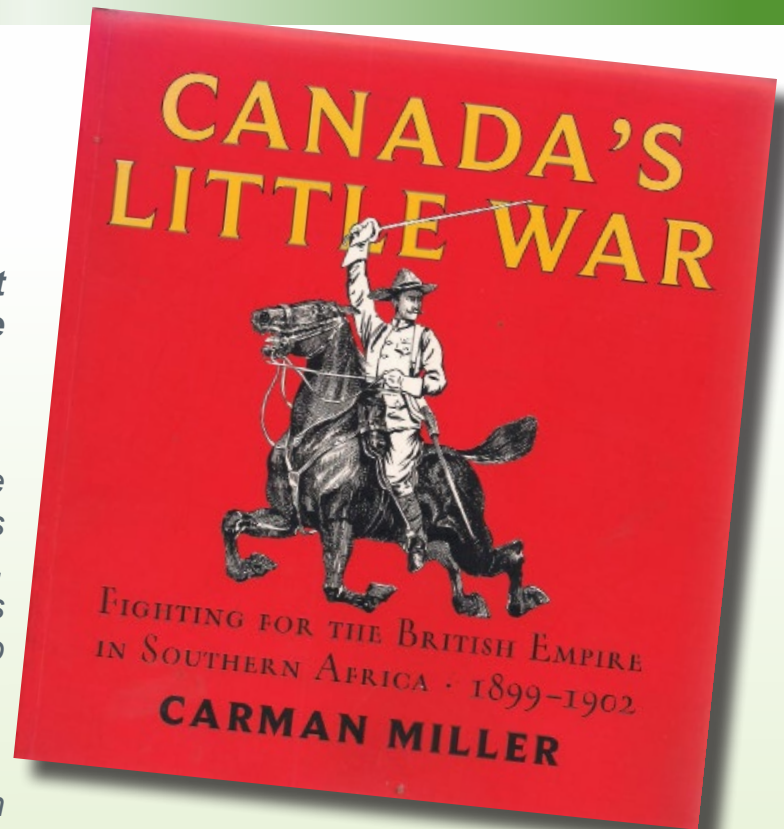
HEIRS director Chris Carter is very good at locating print materials that have a definite place in the *HEIRS* library.

This month we feature another book he unearthed, on a topic about which little is known to most of us. The paper cover book, "Canada's Little War", concerns Canada's participation in the Boer War, from 1899 to 1902.

This war in South Africa was one between the South African Republic and the Orange Free State on one side, and the mighty British Empire on the other side. As a member of the British Commonwealth, Canada was expected to take an active part, and over 7,000 men did serve in Africa.

The war was not widely popular, as supporters both pro & con argued about Canada being involved at all. The end of the Victorian Era was bringing new thinking and the old ways were slowly dying.

The book is of 96 pages in length, with numerous colour and black/white photos. It aims to educate on what this conflict was about and what Canada gained as part of the British forces. As well it forced the British government to re-think the way the members of the Commonwealth should interact. It fills in a blank in the knowledge base of most Canadians, and would be especially valuable to those families who had some kin who actually took part in the events.



London's reception



Distinctive uniforms of the Canadian Contingent

“History As It Used to Was”

- by Ted Steele, HEIRS Director

To wrap up our discussion on Loyalists, here are some of the people who proved their status as a Loyalist, and settled here in Essex County.

Anyone who can prove their direct link to one (or more) of these people would be entitled to UE status, and if more than one is an ancestor, you may be entitled to several certificates. I know of people who have 4 or more certificates.

To qualify you need to prove links between yourself and one of these people below, or links to a Loyalist who arrived & settled elsewhere. I linked to a Loyalist in the Niagara region, as many do. These links can take several forms - a will naming heirs is very good. A marriage record establishes relationships, as does a birth record, & death certificate. Any census is helpful, and divorce decrees or military service document has information. The United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada has recently modified its requirements regarding acceptable proofs, basically limiting the use of some types of proof. Whenever possible, some type of government data is preferred. Items from the internet are NOT proof, as these are not always accurate. Family members can take advantage of kin already certified; once I had my certificate as UE, my brother needed only to prove that he was in fact my brother, and he qualified as well.

Even if you are not interested right now in applying for a certificate, having the information on your ancestors often reveals some wonderful stories to share at the next family reunion. New information on my ancestor indicates he may have been a spy for the British! Who knows - your children may at some point take up the challenge & continue your research.

Essex & Kent County proven Loyalists include:

There are others among us, but those listed below have their status verified.

Frederick Arnold	Johann Leonard Kratz	John Stockwell
Jacob Arner	Leonard Scratch	John Stockwell Sr.
John Cornwall	John Little	Martin Tofflemire
Robert Dowler	John McLean	Richard Whittle
Francois Drouillard	Alexander McCormick	Johann Wendle Wiegler
Alexander Duff	Thomas McCrae Sr.	(John Wendel Wigle)
Joseph Ferriss	John Charles Munger	Elisha (Elijah) Wilcox Sr.,
Philip Fox	William Henry Munger	Hezekiah Wilcox (Kent)
Philip Fuchs	Edward Neville	Elisha (Elijah) Willcocks Jr.
Simon Girty	Abraham Pastorius	Elisha Willcocks Sr.
Edward Hazel	John Alexander Quick	Elisha Willcocks Jr.
Rudolph Huffman	John Smith	Hezekiah Willcocks Sr. (Kent)
Benjamin Knapp	John Snider (Snyder)	Henry Wright.

HEIRS Resource Centre

September to June (excluding December)

Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM - 3PM

Wednesday or for other appts. Call to confirm.

Memberships

\$25 CDN/US per person or couple: May 2017 to April 2018

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

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

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

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



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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