

Vol. 6– June 2014

# H.E.I.R.S.

newsletter

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society



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Community Centre (Arena Bldg.)



## Inside this Issue...

**June Meeting:  
Summer Fun & Events**

## **Newsletter News!**

### ***Welcome to the June issue of the HEIRS newsletter.***

*Summer is just ahead, with all the hopes for adventure, discovery and catching up on chores. It also provides HEIRS with a chance to take a breather, pass some of the rein along to our summer student to guide the ship during July and August. The amount of data entry, photographs scans, filing and general organizational work is staggering, and we appreciate the return of Andrea Leslie, who has served us well for the past two summers.*

*As a reminder, the summer hours for HEIRS will be from 9 AM to 12 PM, and from 1 PM to 4 PM each weekday, through July and August. Note: During the week of July 14th, HEIRS will only be open on the Tuesday & Thursday (15th & 17th) from 10AM to 3PM. We are closed that Monday, Wednesday & Friday.*

*The annual financial report for HEIRS is complete. It is available to any of our members who would like a copy. Contact HEIRS to arrange for a copy to be made available to you.*

***Plan to take in some of the great events listed within this newsletter!***

## ***Meeting***

### ***Gone fishing... see you in September!***

***We remind our members that there is NO meeting in June.***

*Our next meeting will be September 25th.*

*The September newsletter will be sent out early in September, as usual.*

***Enjoy the good weather ahead.***





Our May 22 meeting at Oxley Estates Winery in Colchester saw long-time HEIRS Director Les Hodgkins step down, while Kathy Langlois, Pauline Baldwin and Ester Meerschaut were all acclaimed to HEIRS Board of Directors.



Members were told of our solid financial base, and plans for upcoming activities and meeting topics, as well as the increasing awareness through the community of our services offered. This was followed by social time, with wine, and finger food, and many varieties of treats enjoyed by all. Thanks to Bryan Meyer for doing our year end audit, and thank you to the members for another successful year.



*A big thank you Jo-Ann, Pauline, Kathy & Les for all your work in preparing the food trays for our annual meeting - well done!*

### **Sinasac Family Reunion**

On Sunday, June 29, the Sinasac Family Reunion will be held at the Colchester Harbour Park in Colchester, Ontario, corner of Jackson and Sullivan Streets.

All Sinasac kin are invited to attend. This park is near the original location where Sinasac ancestors lived. There will be a brief outline of the Sinasac family history at 1:30PM, and nearby graves can be visited.

Bring your own picnic lunch and lawn chairs, as there are few picnic tables available. There is a beach for swimming and boating, and a nearby restaurant. Visit with relatives and bring any Sinasac family members and info you may have to share. For more information, call Dan Sinasac at 519-692-4657, or email [dsinasac@explornet.ca](mailto:dsinasac@explornet.ca).



## 4 Upcoming Events

**RIBS AND RAGTIME**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT  
**STRAIGHT AHEAD**  
 FROM DETROIT MICHIGAN

CATERED BY:  
**SMOKE & SPICE SOUTHERN BBQ**

TICKETS **\$40**

**4PM-8PM**  
 SATURDAY JUNE 7, 2014

519-736-5433 | 277 KING ST., AMHERSTBURG | WWW.BLACKHISTORICALMUSEUM.ORG

The North American  
 Black Historical  
 Museum  
 IS BACK... HOSTING THE

**EMANCIPATION  
 CELEBRATION**

*Dinner & Dance*

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 1 2014**

6PM *Caboto Club* 2175 PARENT AVE WINDSOR

TICKETS **\$50EA**

ENTERTAINMENT FEATURING:  
 KGB FROM DETROIT, PERFORMING GREAT MOTOWN!

ART EXHIBIT HOSTED BY:  
 THE ARTISTS OF COLOUR

SPECIAL GUEST:  
 NATASHA L. HENRY, AUTHOR OF EMANCIPATION DAY:  
 CELEBRATING FREEDOM IN CANADA



Save the



**Save the Dates!**

**July 26 and 27, 2014**

Check out over 30 businesses offering unique specials that showcase our talents:

Check out over 30 businesses offering unique specials that showcase our talents:

- LOCAL FOOD,
- ART AND GIFT SHOPS,
- RESTAURANT SPECIALS,
- BLUEBERRY PICKING,
- WINE TASTING, VINEYARD & ORCHARD TOURS,
- KIDS ACTIVITIES & MORE!



[www.exploretheshore.ca](http://www.exploretheshore.ca)



**July 7**

Linemen are making the changes so that Harrow can have continuous service and the street lights will not be shining all day.

**July 10**

Three old-timers were sitting on a bench in front of J. H. Madill's furniture store: W. G. Wright, Zel Brush and Philip Ferriss, and their ages aggregated 249 years. Just think what history has been written during the past 86 years. Their memories would make very interesting reading.

**July 10**

A tremendous crowd of summer resorters from Detroit and other points made Oxley their rendezvous. Over 100 automobiles were counted along the bank at one time. They took to the water like ducks, and some criticism was directed at those who transgressed the bounds of propriety in bathing dress. Oxley is a regular Coney Island for bathers, but there being no official supervision, the daring ones do not hesitate to put over some raw stunts.

**July 17**

The most romantic spot on the lake front, only a stone's throw from Lover's Lane, is "Osocosy Camp", run by a sextette of young ladies from

Harrow: Pearl and Ruby Wright, Fannie Munger, Lou and Bertha Arner, and Greta Ferriss, chaperoned by Mrs. Harry Cornwall.

Sylvestre McCormick is going to build a cement block house, to be constructed by Frank Stockford.

H. J. Bell and Charles Staddon have purchased 40 acres of front at A. B. Herring's farm, all the property on the lake side of the front road, at \$200 an acre, including the Colchester Cape, the most southerly point in Canada.

**July 24**

Bell and Staddon have a blueprint for their subdivision; 3 divisions-- Mr. Herring's lane is a street to the lake, a street is run across the property east and west some 200 feet from the edge of the bank, and this is subdivided into 50 lake front lots. The other 2 pieces are held as small farms.

**July 31**

John Bertrand killed by a train; something of a mystery. Born in Colchester South 70 years ago; son of Moses Bertrand and Amelia Lockhart. As a boy, he went to live with his uncle John B. Bertrand, who left him property on the Gore.



## From the HEIRS mailbag...

### Upcoming Events

**Beginning June 1:** "Save Our Strait", an exhibit on the Detroit River, will be held at the Windsor Community Museum, and will run through all of 2014.

**June 9:** at 6 PM, Daniel McLeod will discuss the collection & resources available at the Scottish Studies Centre at the University of Guelph. This is the Essex Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society meeting, Windsor Public Library, 850 Ouellette Ave., Windsor (lower level).

### The J. R. Park Homestead summer events schedule:

Friday, June 6 is a school PA day, & they offer a Family Pioneer Morning - adults & children dress in period garb to experience pioneer chores and games. Cost is \$15 per person. Includes snacks. Advance registration required, 519-738-2029.



Two travelling exhibits from the Archives of Ontario, supplemented by materials from HEIRS & private collections are offered at the Homestead during regular hours (Sunday - Thursday from 11 AM to 4 PM).

Through June & July you can enjoy "Tourism in Ontario". Then for August & September, the exhibit changes to feature "Nineteenth Century Women's Diaries".

On Saturday, August 9, learn to make a basket. This workshop is suitable for anyone 10 & older, at \$40 per person, including all materials & instruction. Advance registration required, 519-738-2029. The next day, Saturday August 10, is the Blueberry Social & Lost Arts Festival at the Homestead.

**2<sup>nd</sup> HEIRS ANNUAL JULY 5  
BBQ FUNDRAISER**

**11AM - 2PM**

**Stop by to enjoy some good hot food & support activities which HEIRS works to provide.**

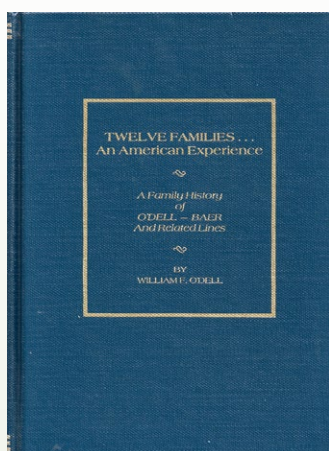
On Saturday, July 5, HEIRS will hold its 2nd Summer BBQ, on the sidewalk in front of Sanford's store. The Directors will be selling hot dogs, burgers, sausages, pop & chips with profits going to towards keeping the HEIRS centre open every weekday during the summer.

## Last chance to purchase from the HEIRS Resource Centre

Enjoy some summer reading & discover some interesting history at the same time.

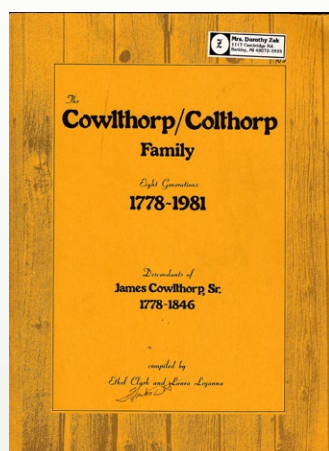
These books shown below are available for sale only during the June to August period. They will no longer be available from HEIRS afterwards. First come, first served.

Drop into the Resource Centre to check them out for yourself, or contact us to purchase if you live outside the Essex region.



### Twelve Families:

488 pg, outline of the Odell & Baer families.



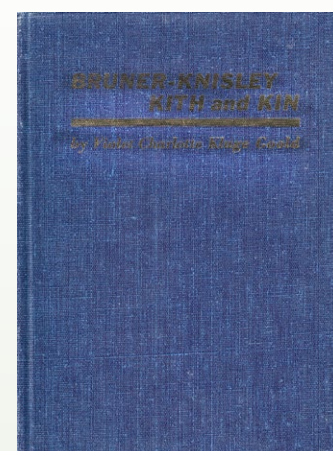
### Cowlthorp/Colthorp Family:

Descendants of James, 1778-1846, in several Southern Ontario counties



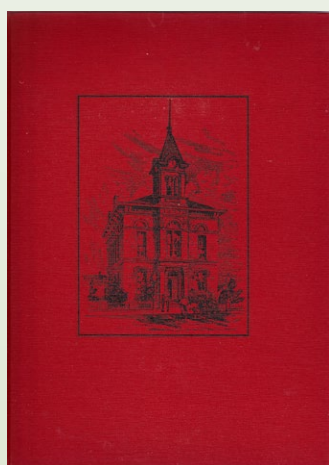
### Harrow High School 80th Anniversary Reunion:

30 pg, 1904-84, paper cover



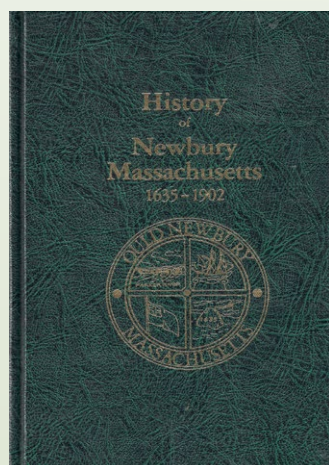
### Bruner-Knisley Kith and Kin:

275 pg, hard cover, well indexed



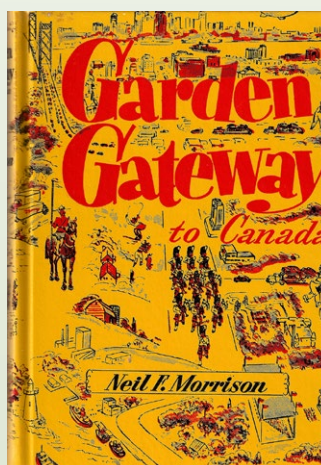
### Leamington 1874-1974:

186 pg, town's beginnings & growth, many b/w photos.



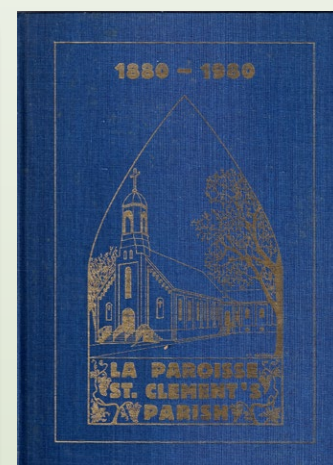
### History of Newbury, MA. New England:

632 pg, history in detail, good index



### Garden Gateway:

325 pg, hard cover history of Essex County



### St Clement's Parish 1880-1980:

Centennial history of McGregor area, many b/w photos

## Loyalists of Essex County

- PART THREE - article written by HEIRS Director, Ted Steele

### The Settling of Essex County

As settlers proved their loyalty to the crown, they were allotted land along the shore of Lake Erie. Roads were nothing more than Indian trails, so travel by water was vital. Once a family located its land, they saw the task ahead of them. Most of the county was heavily forested, and parts were swampy as well. With the meagre supplies given them, they had to somehow survive, and be almost completely self-sufficient.



The first shelter was often a tent, but job one was to get some of the land cleared for planting. Trees were cut down or burned, but stumps were often left until later, and merely planted around. Food would be in short supply when winter came!



The felled trees would be squared, and notched at the end, so that they could be "linked" at the corners to form a structure. (Did you have "Lincoln Logs" as a child?) Since the positioning of logs was a huge job, neighbours would work together to assemble the frame of a house.



These small cabins would have no windows, one door, and a mud/leaf mix filling the gaps between the logs. A fireplace for cooking and heating would complete the "house" for the first few years.







Hunting and fishing would provide meat, while gradual clearing of the land allowed more food to be grown. It was very fortunate the local Indians were friendly; they taught the newcomers many things.



The toboggan and snowshoes were native inventions. They shared the knowledge of which plants to eat and which to avoid, and which could provide medicines- a tea made from willow bark could relieve pain. (We now know it contained a form of ASA, or aspirin!)

Collecting maple syrup and making maple sugar was also knowledge they passed along. Different types of snares and traps were also introduced by the native peoples, to make hunting more successful. Foods like corn & squash, which the First Nations knew well, quickly became food staples.

**Locations where 2 paths crossed became major intersections & small communities might develop.** Locations with running water could see the erection of a grist mill, where settlers could have their grain ground into usable flour, at the cost of a percentage of the flour produced.



This encouraged development in the areas close to the mill. Schools were low on the priority list, but a “meeting place” to give thanks & worship was not low. Other than the spiritual benefits, Sunday gatherings offered a chance to socialize, to flirt, to arrange work bees & to firm the connections between local families. Meeting places gradually became houses of worship and more formal, but the beginnings were loosely structured.

Marriages could be made in a public meeting, & solemnized whenever an ordained preacher made his rounds. This social contract was deemed binding; baptisms would also be done “when possible”, & children could be several years old before the opportunity arrived.

**A man was ‘as good as his word’ & if you faithfully kept your word, you were highly regarded & could count on support from the community.**

**Hours of Operation: September to June (excluding December)**

Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM - 3PM , Wednesday 9 - Noon. Please call for appointments for other times.

**Memberships Due: May 2014 to April 2015: \$25 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, as of January 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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