

Vol. 7– September 2016

HEIRS

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society

newsletter



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Inside this issue...

Bellvue House

- headed to oblivion or ovation?

Newsletter News!

Welcome to the September newsletter

Another great summer in the books - if you like humidity!

It appears that we survived the 'heat dome' or 'sweat-mageddon'.

I can't remember such a prolonged spell of sticky weather, and for some members in other parts of Ontario, such little rainfall.

Luckily... compared to cold winters, let's not, complain too hard about the heat :-)

Hope everyone still got out & about this summer, doing genealogy things... of course!

See what some of HEIRS members did on their 'summer vacation' on pages 2 & 3.

Next Meeting

When: Thursday September 22nd, 1:30 PM

Where: Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Centre



On the 1st day of Autumn, Robert & Deb Honor of Amherstburg, UEL descendants & active in several historical groups in Essex County, will speak about the "Bellevue House". Efforts to save this palatial home built by Robert Reynolds along the Detroit River near Amherstburg between 1816-1819 & designed by Robert's sister Catherine will be updated. The property is up for sale & may be headed for oblivion. The "Friends of Bellevue" hope a local movement to save the home may result in some government-sponsored initiatives. Join us to learn more on this story & how you can help support the efforts to save this historic building!

HEIRS SUMMER ACTIVITIES 2016

Another summer season has come and gone - time to pause and look back at what local events HEIRS was involved with during the hot weather.

Our June newsletter pointed out the multitude of free concerts and events all around our county; we sincerely hope you took advantage of some of these.

Great music of all kinds, a sunny evening as twilight begins, a lawn chair and a burger or hot dog...at no cost!!

*Since we last met in May, a new Director has come on board; we welcome **Brian Leslie** and appreciate his willingness to help with our group 's activities.*

HEIRS held its annual fund-raising BBQ in front of Sanford's Market on Main Street Harrow on July 2, raising over \$300. We thank all those who stopped to purchase food items and support what we are doing. Keeping local history alive is an ongoing project, and your interest and support are much appreciated.

The annual summer meeting of SWOHC (South Western Ontario Heritage Council) was held on July 8th, on Boblo Island. After a good meal on the patio, with cool breezes off the Detroit River, representatives of more than a dozen groups interested in local history met to socialize, discuss upcoming plans and forge closer links between the groups.



This was followed by a tour of the 1839 Bois Blanc blockhouse and a chance to learn of its place in Essex County history.



HEIRS Director Ted Steele represented HEIRS and enjoyed the day while connecting on a personal level with many others of similar interests. HEIRS looks forward to continuing its involvement with SWOHC and its various member groups.

4 Events Recap

On July 13, the Trolley Tour of the Comber, Olinda and Essex area was held, sponsored by HEIRS and the Leamington Mersea Historical Society.



Tour guide Chris Carter, detailed tiny hamlets that are no more, why they came to be and why they vanished. Stops in Olinda and the Tilbury Museum were included, and we ended at the beautifully restored Essex Train Station for snacks and a video presentation.



The museum revealed great photos of WW1 veterans and early county life, and much information about the northern section of our county.



Our final stop helped us appreciate the role that the rails played in the development of Essex County, and also helped to fuel the desire among many to preserve our old buildings and save them for future generations.

John R. Park Homestead As of Monday, August 29, a new temporary exhibit featuring the Fox Family Farm will open. Anyone with a story or photo of this farm (the Homestead in its earlier days) is encouraged to contact the Homestead. The Canadian Club Questers have come through in a big way financially to help restore the leaning Homestead smokehouse.

The Harvest and Horses Festival will be held on **Sunday, Oct. 2** from noon to 4 PM. This very popular Fall event offers old time farming activities, the role of horses in getting jobs done, and there will be a BBQ food booth by the Kingsville Lions, featuring goodies appropriate to the season.

The **Algonquin Club** meets Sept. 20 at the Fogolar Furlan Club. Social time at 6:30, dinner at 7 PM. Speaker Jim McTavish will discuss "**The Windsor Waterfront- 100 Years of Change**". Tickets are \$25, and all are very welcome.

The Bicentennial Branch of the United Empire Loyalists meets on **Saturday, September. 17, at 12 noon, at the Church of the Epiphany Church Hall on Main Street, Kingsville.**

It's their annual September luncheon/meeting, and anyone who has an interest in Essex County Loyalists and their history is invited to attend. Just \$20 includes the meeting and a great lunch of lemon chicken, potatoes Anna, Spanish tossed salad, homemade dinner rolls, tomato juice appetizer, dessert, tea and coffee. **Speaker Chris Carter** presents "**Loyalist Contributions in Settling Essex County**".

You need not be a member to attend. RSVP to info@bicentennial@uelac.org or call 519-995-3529 to leave your name, phone number & number of guests to be included.

The Sandwich Improvement Area Presents:

You Be The Judge!

The Bloody Assizes

Dinner and Trial
Friday, September 16, 2016

Mackenzie Hall: 3277 Sandwich Street, Windsor
Doors Open: 6:00 pm • Dinner 7:00 pm
Tickets: \$50.00 • Tables: \$350.00

For more information or tickets call:
519-792-3521 or 519-258-0361



SAVE THE DATE!

windsor
essex

Harvest

Festival celebrating local food & drink

Fort Malden National Historic Site, Amherstburg
September 9, 10, & 11, 2016

Tickets available July 2nd at all WFCU Credit Union locations!
weharvestfest.com

6 Special Notice

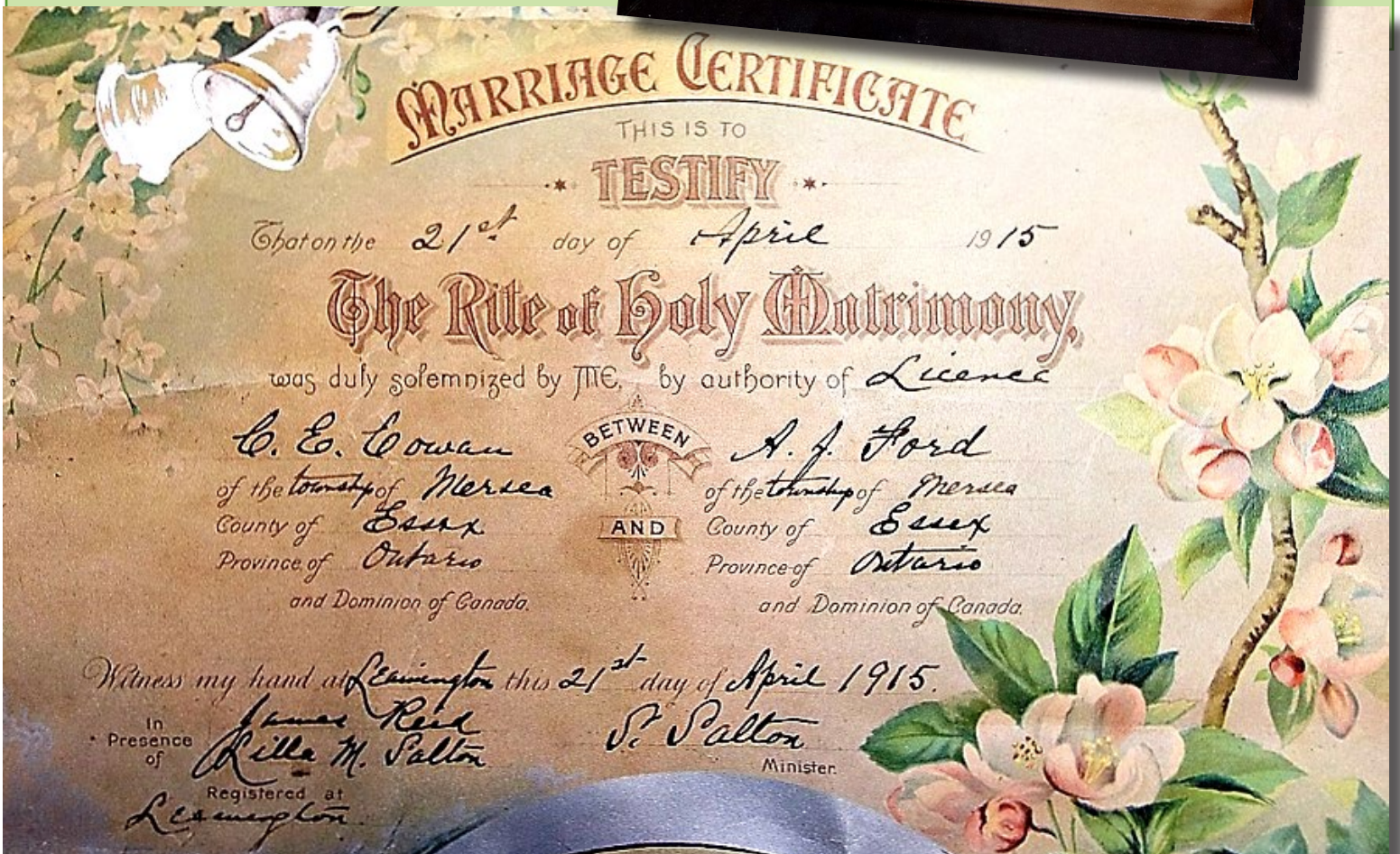
As the Leamington Legion closed its doors forever, its President, Bob McKee began sifting through the files & items accumulated over many years.

He found a 101-year old framed, marriage document & is hopeful that it will be reunited with a member of one of the families involved.

This marriage certificate is dated 1915, & shows that Agnes Isabella Ford married Corydon Elliott Cowan. Daughter of William Ford & Katherine "Kate" Brown, of Tilbury West Twp., the groom was the son of D. D. Cowan & Mary Anne McMullen of Mersea Twp.

Anyone related to either the bride or groom may take possession of the document by contacting the Southpoint Sun, 519-0398-9098 or bryan@southpointsun.ca. They or HEIRS will put you in contact with Bob McKee.

Photos courtesy of Bryan Jessop of the Southpoint Sun, whose assistance is greatly appreciated.



The government of Ontario is funding a program called Z.E.A.L.L. to promote fitness, learning and social opportunities for seniors. For more information, call 519-776-8992 or visit online at essex.ca.

HEIRS is happy to promote this worthwhile program for our members and all others who may be interested.



Z.E.A.L.L.

Zoomers Essex Active Lunch and Learn



Lunch and Learn Passport (11AM-1PM)

- **Staying Fit & Independent** – Essex Centre Sports Complex – September 14
In partnership with Windsor- Essex County Health Unit
- **ZEALL Get Sporty** – Essex Recreation Complex – September 23
- **ZEALL Exploring Your Community** - Various Locations – October 5 (10a-3p)
- **ZEALL Protecting Yourself** – Harrow & Colchester South C.C. - October 25
In partnership with Ontario Provincial Police & Essex Fire and Rescue Services
- **ZEALL Eating Healthy** – McGregor Community Centre – November 16
In partnership with Windsor- Essex County Health Unit
- **ZEALL Getting Involved** – Essex Retirees Social Club – January 24
- **ZEALL Staying Connected** – Essex Library Branch – February 27
In partnership with Essex County Library



Zoomers Passport Program

Bring this passport to each Lunch and Learn event and get it stamped each time you visit. Participants who attend five or more Lunch and Learn events will be rewarded with a long-term fitness pass.

← *Your passport to fitness!*



Zoomers Fitness Pass

Participants who attend any Lunch and Learn event will receive a Zoomers Fitness Pass that will allow them to participate in up to 3 fitness programs offered by Town of Essex – Community Services free of charge.



Z.E.A.L.L.

Zoomers Essex Active Lunch and Learn

Zoomers (Ages 50+) are invited to join us for this exciting new program to help you live a healthy, active and connected lifestyle. From free Lunch and Learn sessions to a variety of free fitness options, we have something for every Zoomer!



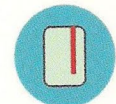
Lunch and Learn Sessions

Join us for a delicious lunch and the opportunity to learn from various community experts.



Connect with Others

Connect with other Zoomers in the community and watch new friendships blossom.



Zoomers Passport Program

Receive a free long-term fitness pass for attending five or more Lunch and Learn sessions.



Zoomers Fitness Pass

For every Lunch and Learn session attended, receive a pass for three free fitness programs.



The Amherstburg Echo.

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE TOWNSHIP

Vol. XXX No. 12

AMHERSTBURG, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1904.

Weekly No. 2474

100 ACRES FOR SALE

THE SOVEREIGN BANK OF CANADA

HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO, ONT.

SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT

HARROW BRANCH, AMHERSTBURG BRANCH

BURK BROS.



LIME FOR SALE
IN
CARLOAD LOTS

September 15

Dr. Collins has rented the Heaton block and will occupy the upstairs both as a residence and as an office.

Charles Richardson of the hardware company, died at Cedar Beach. Honorary pallbearers Thomas Ferriss, A. L. Munger, T. R. Flood, A. L. Ferriss, William Hughson & Henry Herdman. Acting pallbearers were Charles Clark, C. F. Smith, W. H. Ferriss, A. Brush, J. A. Secord, & E. F. Darby. Cortege had 65 autos & many other vehicles. He was a native of Colchester South; his only sister surviving is Mrs. Lucinda Atkin of Leamington, now 87. When Charles was quite young, he apprenticed to the late Walter Pulford of Leamington, in the woodworking and blacksmithing business.

He remained there for several years, & first took up business for himself in the village of McGregor, where he stayed for 7 years. He went from there to Thamesville where he carried on business for 10 years. When he came to Harrow, he went into the hardware business on the W. G. Wright corner. In 1901, his son Frank entered the firm, known as C. Richardson and Son, and built a beautiful building. He was married in 1870 to Miss Alzora Pulford, daughter of the late Henry Pulford of Kingsville,

& they had a family of 5 children, 3 of which died young. He was active in the Methodist Church, on quarterly board.

September 29

A large amount of cucumbers is being taken in at the Heinz factory, although nothing like last year. This summer was dry.

Alvah Munger, manager of Bell telephone, had been ill for 2 years. For years he ran a stationery store & watch repair. When Bell Telephone came, he was resident manager, & did some of the repairs himself. He was son of John G. Munger, who gave the town its early name of Munger's Corners.

His brothers & sisters living are: Arthur of Harrow; Judson & Herman, Mrs. Frank Whitney & Mrs. James Helfrich of Michigan. He married Hattie Rosebrugh; their children were Daisa (Mrs. John Forsyth of Royal Oak, Mich.), Ina (Mrs. Norm Wright of Harrow), Effie (Mrs. John McDougall of Winnipeg), Guy & Leo at home, Fannie (Mrs. Pat Wright of Colchester South. A number of the Rosebrugh family from St. George, Ontario were at the funeral.

“History As It Used to Was”

- by Ted Steele, HEIRS Director

A fairly well-known old custom is the “shivaree” or “chivaree”.

It appears in movies or TV shows from time to time, especially those set in the pioneer days.

*I recall an episode of The Waltons which featured the idea. It is usually depicted as a loud, boisterous and unmusical celebration held as a newlywed couple settle down for their first night together. Supposedly designed to interrupt the proceedings and force the couple to instead host a party, those involved are assumed to be friends playing a practical joke to welcome the new couple to married life. It apparently could feature “friends” removing all the labels off the canned foods, salt in the couple’s bed, and impromptu wheelbarrow rides down the main street of town . It is just a good-natured way to embarrass the couple and have some fun at their expense. **This had always been my idea of it’s meaning, but not so!***



Dating back to medieval times in Europe, the shivaree was actually a protest - held to make known public opposition to a marriage of which general society did not approve. Often this would be a marriage occurring too soon after a spouse had died & not been ‘properly mourned’, or when a young girl married a much older man; the impropriety might cause a demonstration to humiliate the couple & show contempt by their neighbours. In cases of severe disapproval, the couple might be dragged out of their home & forced to join the activities, at times even being paraded around town on a donkey in shame.

This was often referred to as a “Skimmington”, or “riding the Skimmington”. In some cases, the couple had to move away to escape the anger of townspeople.

The custom was not approved of, but so long as no person or property was injured, authorities seemed to look on it as a “peaceful protest”. It gradually evolved into what we call an impromptu party, often with similarities to our Hallowe’en trick or treating. The noise, silliness & embarrassing activities might end sooner if partiers were just given beer, food & encouraged to then, go home.

The custom is rare today, but echoes of it remain; after all, have you not seen tin cans tied behind a car departing for a honeymoon, “Just Married” signs on it & car horns announcing the newlyweds?

Echoes of the past, but as more & more couples live together before marriage, sometimes for years, the impact of these custom is fading quickly as well.

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: April 2016 to May 2017

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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