

Vol. 4 – April 2018

# HEIRS

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society

*newsletter*



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Harrow & Colchester South  
Community Centre (Arena Bldg.)



**Next meeting...**

**Topic: William Caldwell, A Founder of Essex County**

## Newsletter News!

### Welcome to the April newsletter.

And to Spring.... with lots of renewed activities beginning or in the works, with old places to go to learn new things, and places to go to just enjoy this time of year.

We hope you will come out and learn more about one of our local "founding fathers" of Essex County at our next meeting. We bet most of you are related to him at some level in your family tree, if your ancestors lived in this region during the early pioneer days.

See you there?

## Next Meeting

**When:** Thursday, April 26, 1:30 PM

**Where:** Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Meeting Room

Plan to join HEIRS as we welcome Marvin Recker, noted local historian and re-enactor, as well as a direct descendant of William Caldwell.

Caldwell was one of the military leaders (Simon Girty another) on the British side, defending the struggling 'Western District' during the war of 1812.

For his efforts, he was given a large tract of land near what is now Amherstburg, and was an important figure both in local politics and in the Rebellion of 1837, along with his son Billy Caldwell.

Descendants intermarried with many of the local families, so that HEIRS members may very well find themselves included in the list of those related to this famous family.

Come and learn about this amazing character from our own area, a true founder of Essex County, as presented by a re-enactor in full kit who will bring the story to life (Marvin is featured on this month's newsletter cover).

Section	Patentee	Date
I	David Cowan	1807
II	Hon. Alexander Grant	1788
III	Hon. Alexander Grant	1788
IV	Hon. Alexander Grant	1788
V	M. Elliot	1798
VI	William Caldwell	1799
VII	J. Maloney	1856
VIII	W. Allen	1898
IX	Pierre Lamer	1836
1	David Cowan	1807
2	William Caldwell	1798
3	William Caldwell	1797
4	William Caldwell	1797
5	Alexander McKee	1797
6	Matthew Eliot	1805
7	David Cowan	1803
8	Rev. H. Edwards	1825
9	Charles Reame	1801
10	Simon Girty	1798
11	Francis Baily	1799
12	Francis Baily	1799
13	Thomas McKee	1801
14	Thomas McKee	1801
15	Prudeau Selby	1799
16	Prudeau Selby	1799
17	Thomas Alexander Clarke	1798
18	William Caldwell	1797
19	Alexander McKee	1797
20	Matthew Eliot	1797
21	Alexander McKee	1797
22	William Caldwell	1797
23	William Caldwell	1797
24	William Caldwell	1797
25	Capt. W. Caldwell	1797
26	William Caldwell	1799
27	William Caldwell	1799
28	William Caldwell	1799
29	Alexander McKee	1797
30	Matthew Eliot	1797
31	Matthew Eliot	1797
32	Matthew Eliot	1797
33	Matthew Eliot	1797
34	Matthew Eliot	1797
35	Matthew Eliot	1797
36	Matthew Eliot	1797
37	Matthew Eliot	1797
38	Matthew Eliot	1797
39	Matthew Eliot	1797
40	Alexander McKee	1797
41	Alexander McKee	1797
42	Alexander McKee	1797
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45	Alexander McKee	1797
46	Alexander McKee	1797
47	Alexander McKee	1797
48	Alexander McKee	1797
49	Alexander McKee	1797
50	Geo. Leith	1801
51	Geo. Sharp	1798
52	Geo. Sharp	1798
53	Geo. Sharp	1798
54	Samuel Colburn	1802
55	Samuel Colburn	1802
56	Samuel Colburn	1802
57	Samuel Colburn	1802
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95	Samuel Colburn	1802

This land grant image will be provided in a larger version within our meeting recap next month so readers can find their ancestor's allotment.

As always, everyone is welcome to join us & enjoy what HEIRS meetings offer.

**HEIRS hosted Ken Hunter, whose family operated a maple syrup business on the Arner Town Line for many years.**

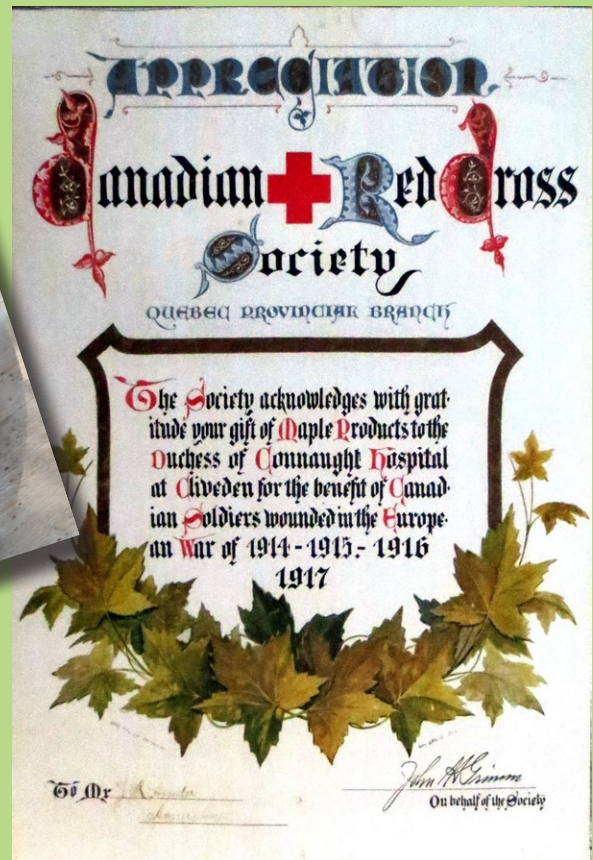
Ken combined family memories, humorous incidents and a smattering of technical “how-it’s done” information on collecting maple sap from 150 trees and converting it to the maple syrup that we all love. We learned about the hard work involved for the February-March months, when there are no days off in the process, the careful watching to avoid boil-off or spoilage, and the need for strict quality control to ensure purity and flavour.

He explained the different grades of syrup according to colouration; the light syrup, though of equal quality has a less intense

taste, while the dark amber syrup is no better in quality but has a stronger flavour.

Ken and his father ran the business until the early 1990s, when taxes and government restrictions made it impractical to continue. Ken’s light-hearted approach to the topic had the audience chuckling at times, as we all learned from, and enjoyed his talk.

Especially impressive was the certificate from the Canadian Red Cross presented to the Hunter family for supplying large batches of maple syrup to a British hospital, that treated Canadian wounded soldiers from 1914 to 1917. Ken told us that nobody he knows, has ever seen such a document as this, making its message of thanks all the more unique.



**Special Note:**

We recently learned the Harrow Feed Store just held their 5th Annual Maple Festival, with locally made maple products, including syrup. This event supports several groups: 4H Dairy Club, Ronald McDonald House & the Windsor Mission. Although not a large operation, the McGuire Syrup Co. does make & offer these treats for sale, year round. We have a local outlet for these wonderful treats, so please take advantage of the opportunity, and help ensure the continuation of this Canadian tradition.

## 4 Upcoming Events

### April 3rd

HEIRS director Ted Steele will be speaking to the Friends of Cedar Creek at 7 PM, as they learn more about the Bois Blanc blockhouse, its history, its decline into ruin, and then rising from the sawdust as a truly special part of Essex County history.

**Note:** The blockhouse on Bois Blanc (Boblo) Island will re-open for Sunday visits in May. Until then, the south end of the island is off limits due to ongoing construction operations.

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### April 14

A series of presentations will be given at the Canadian Transportation Museum and Heritage Village on the Arner Town Line, featuring HEIRS director and award winning local historian Chris Carter.

The first of these will be "How the Fur Trade Built Essex County and Their Influence and Involvement in the War of 1812". The talk begins at 11:30 AM, to be repeated at 1 PM. Details are now being readied; a small charge will apply, and other groups are invited to contact Chris if interested in setting up sale tables of items which may enhance the topic.

**A request:** Chris Carter is now working on his next book, tentatively called "True Tales of the Strange and Scary Stories of Essex County". If you might have a story to be included, please contact Chris at HEIRS.

### April 21

The Kent County branch of the Ontario Genealogy Society offers a half-day workshop called DNA Basics, at the Chatham Public Library from 12:30 to 4:30 PM. Cost is \$20 for OGS members and \$25 for non-members. For more information, check their website at [www.kent.ogs.on](http://www.kent.ogs.on).

DNA can reveal family medical background, and also family members who did not realize they were related at all, or at least not as closely connected. Ancestry recently offered their DNA test kit for \$99 Canadian, although the usual cost is \$129 Canadian. Other kits such "23 & Me" are being heavily advertised as well, but may cost more.

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### Chimczuk Museum

#### **Material Culture: Things We Make to Live**

Runs to September 9th, this exhibit focusses on a variety of cultures around the world, & the dependence of each, on the natural materials available to them.

#### **Die Cast From the Past: A History of Autos**

Runs to June 30th, this unique display offers a large collection of "Hot Wheels" / Matchbox cars.

Tuesday - Saturday. 10AM to 5PM.

Sundays 11AM to 5PM. 519-253-1812 or visit [windsormuseum.ca](http://windsormuseum.ca) Admission fees apply.

### IMPORTANT

#### **HEIRS Members' Dues Are Due... April 30th, 2018**

Payment is greatly appreciated & helps us offset our July / August summer students' costs, while we wait for various grants to arrive.

**See last page of this Newsletter for payment details.**

**Thank you.**

**HEIRS members Bill Brundage and Ted Steele spoke at the meeting of the Bicentennial Branch United Empire Loyalists on March 24th.**

With his topic, "The Rescue of the Bois Blanc Blockhouse" Bill told the amazing story of how this incredible remnant of history, built in 1839, had fallen into extreme disrepair and was thought by many to be beyond saving. Bill, a retired local teacher, saw what poor condition it was in, and took action. He, through sheer determination, obtained professional support provided pro bono by a few local supporters, and achieved the impossible. The blockhouse went from "2 weeks away from the wood chipper" to "a jewel Essex County can be proud of", it being one of the last blockhouses built in Ontario, and probably the only one of its kind, since others still with us are of different design.

**This not only shows what determination can do, but allows us to see how military outposts functioned almost 200 years ago- a true "step back in time". It is an important part of the amazing history which our county has in abundance, and should be more appreciated.**

**A little help needed!**

We received a request for help from an HEIRS member, about the "McCormick Drug Stores", located at 31 Sandwich & 217 Drouillard Rd. (Ford, ON) in the early 1920's.

A 'New Baby's Book', for parents to record birth date, weight & other vital stats of their newborn, was provided by these stores to their clients.

If you can provide further info, leads, links, stories or photos about these stores & its owner, they are most welcomed.

Rick's lineage starts with Alexander McCormick, of Colchester South, to his son Mathew, then his son George, and then Merton 'Mac' McCormick (druggist at these stores). Anyone related to this line is welcomed to contact Rick.

**Email him at:**  
**[rickmccormick@rogers.com](mailto:rickmccormick@rogers.com)**



## **Dear Canada: These Are My Words**

### **The Residential School Diary of Violet Pesheens**

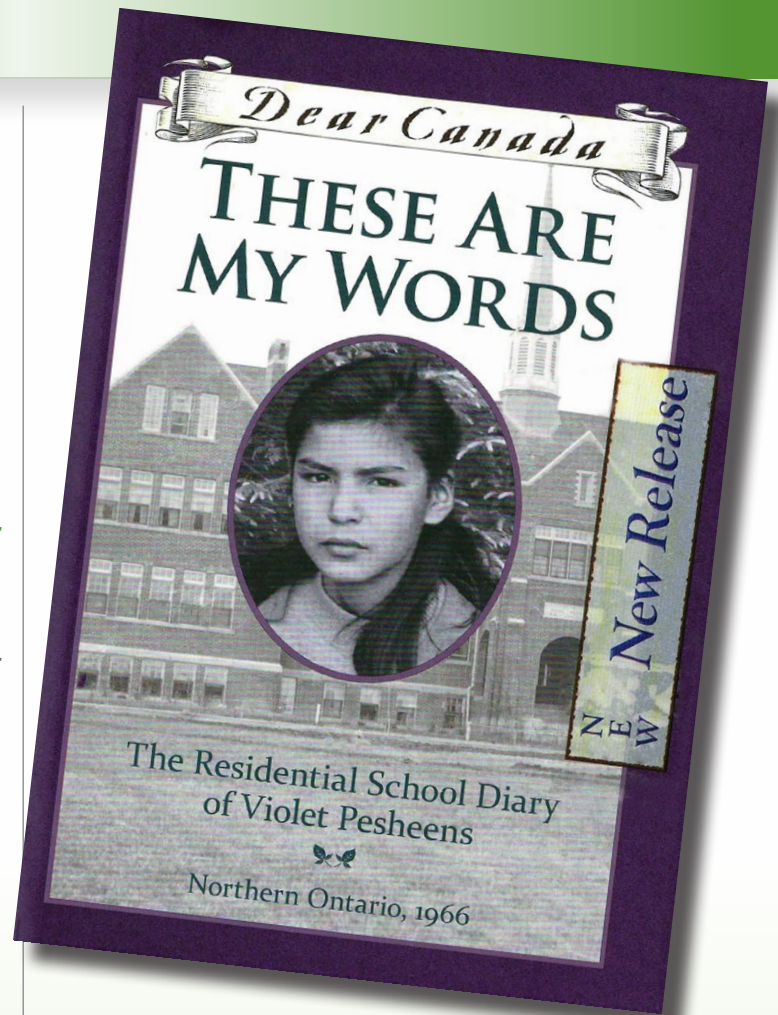
**A new book in the HEIRS Lending Library is featured this issue- "These Are My Words- The Residential School Diary of Violet Pesheens".**

*Imagine yourself as being totally innocent of any crime, but being given a ten year sentence and carted off to a government institution. While there, your clothes are exchanged for a uniform, your hair is cut identical to every other inmate, the food is terrible and you are forbidden, under penalty of severe corporal punishment, to practise your religion or even speak, unless you are using the language dictated by the authorities.*

***Sporadic family visits are allowed for those who cause no problems and do not complain about the treatment. This is not some far off country controlling dissidents; it is how the Canadian government tried to deal with Canada's racial problem, that being the indigenous people and Métis.***

*One young girl, Violet, kept a secret diary during her time in a residential school, and this is it. Some children as young as 5 were removed from their parents and would be dumped back there again as a 15-year old, caught between 2 worlds. They were Indian but had little or no knowledge of Indian culture or language; at the same time, they did not fit into the outside world either.*

*Violet tells of harsh punishment handed out when one girl says "Thank you" to another*



*girl in their own language; of the secret place where they were told that residential school girls were buried; and of the children bullying one another... their only way to release their inner anger.*

*It is estimated that 150,000 children went through the residential school system in 139 locations across Canada. The back of the book contains photos of the schools, and maps showing where they were located. It also tells of the agreement in 2008 between the First Nations and the government, with a financial payment and official apology for mistreatment.*

*Disturbing, but the book also recounts how alike young girls of various cultures can be, as we are made to realize most differences are superficial. **It is worth the read to learn a story that has been "swept under the carpet" for so long, but should be made known.***

# The Amherstburg Echo.

Tue. Apr. 12

AMHERSTBURG, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1904.

Week No. 2426

100 ACRES FOR SALE.

In full possession, Amherst Township, about 10 miles from Amherstburg, 20 acres of land, with small buildings. For further particulars see page one.

FALLS BROS., Agts.  
Amherstburg.

LIME FOR SALE  
IN  
CARLOAD LOTS.

THE SOVEREIGN BANK OF CANADA.

HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO, ONT.

SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT.

HARROW BRANCH, AMHERSTBURG BRANCH.  
C. A. WAGNATION, M. J. LAKE  
Managers.

PROCESSED BY AMHERSTBURG

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## April 5

M. P. O'Connor, the former station agent at Harrow has established a new garage in Windsor, on Erie Street East; it is the largest garage in the city, capable of storing 55 to 60 autos.

## April 12

Robert Lypps, youngest son of John Lypps, who came from Pennsylvania & died here in June of 1831, died from an injury received when thrown from a cart. Robert married Hannah Goodchild, sister of John R. And Henry Goodchild, & she survives with one son, Judson Lypps. His siblings were Eliza (Mrs. Jeremiah Sessions), Hannah (Mrs. Gore Atkin), John, of Michigan, Thomas, of Amherstburg, & Abner, who died with his father.

Harrow main streets need more street lights, and the Hydro has purchased the Essex County system.

G. H. Tingle, who was employed at John Staddon's when he enlisted, was killed in action. He was a native of England.

Quality Cannery is offering \$12 a ton for sweet corn; paid only \$8 last year, an example of the high cost of living. It is the cheapest crop to seed, as they have the seed, and the farmer does not have to purchase ensilage corn seed in the US.

## April 26

James E. McDonald has been appointed Ford agent at this point and will push the Ford and Overland cars to the limit. There is no more active agency in Essex County than that of McDonald and Son.

At a special meeting, the official board of the Methodist Church, a unanimous invitation was extended to the Harrow Presbyterian Church to unite with the Methodist Church, on whatever basis may be agreed upon by the committee of the two churches. As over 600 students of the two denominations of Canada have enlisted and are serving their country in France, and several have paid the supreme sacrifice, this is a move in the right direction.

### The Treasures of HEIRS ...

- by Ted Steele, HEIRS Director

**This will be an unusual “History As It Used to Was” page, but I believe an important one. Please bear with me while I ramble through my thoughts...**

In January of this year, I took an old Windsor Star article from the mid-1940s and turned it into a 3-part story about the last of Essex County’s stagecoach days. I considered it a great story, and also quickly realized that it helped me to unravel some of my wife’s family tree, that of Philip Fox.

I am using Family Tree Maker to make new entries and discover new ties with other Loyalist families. Also fairly recently, fellow HEIRS Directors John and Ann Brush had asked me to look into the Brush tree, and I very quickly saw how it meshed with the Foxes; this is great!!

A good friend had given me a printout of the McCormick family... from Alexander McCormick (born 1728 in Ireland), down to descendants among us today. To no very great surprise, they meshed with both the Fox and Brush trees, and gave me even more Loyalist connections to be developed. Adding information on the Wiggles, Tofflemires, Mungers, Fulmers, Baldwins, Hernimans and many more, shows how closely related many of our families really are.

Though my family roots are 95% in the Niagara region, I found the sister of my GGG Grandfather had married a Doan and moved to Essex County about 1810. I have Doan kin around here, and their daughter Cynthia married a Hutchins, so I connect with Susan and Ruth (nee Hutchins).

My 4th Great-Grandfather was a New Jersey Volunteer of the American Revolution. He must have been a character as this passage taken from the ‘Biographical Sketches of Loyalist of the American Revolution’ 1864, by Lorenzo Sabine indicates...

**“Steele, William of New Jersey. In 1776, published to the world by the Committee of New Brunswick as “an inveterate, obstinate, incorrigible enemy to his Country”, with the recommendation that persons of honor and virtue “discountenance, avoid & condemn him”.**

**Does it get better than that?** Here is an example one of the belt plates that were designed for these volunteers called the NJVs.



My point, I suppose, is that all these connections exist but are many times unknown. Time moves along, memories dim, and information is lost in time, sometimes forever. Paperwork and wonderful genealogy



research is thrown out, and we lose details that may fill in spots in the tree that are blank. We need to ask our elders (if that isn't ourselves) questions and gather facts, then write them down. What is known needs to be preserved.

In the last month, over a dozen old VHS tapes of family events have surfaced to me. These can be converted to DVD form, and then made playable on any computer or standard DVD player. What priceless video footage of seniors now gone, and little ones now grown up, who see these images for the first time!

Reels of film can also be converted, but I am not able to do these. I suggest Costco, who does offer this service at what I consider a reasonable price... a set fee for the job and so many cents per foot to put it all on disk. A friend had 4 reels done, and was delighted to find the cost less than \$50. Since it showed the only video of a little girl and her father who died young, it was truly special to have.

I know there are stories, videotapes, family anecdotes and legends, and bits of historical information (military papers, memorabilia, birth certificates, obituaries, marriage licenses, etc.) out there.

**HEIRS wants a chance to DUPLICATE them and then give your originals back to you. As we have said many times, we cannot be a museum, due to space restrictions.**

You never know what treasures are in those boxes of old photos. I found a photo of an old mill built by Christian Zavitz. He was a famous mill builder in the 1820s, and many of his mills were burned when the Kentucky Cavalry wiped out the British and Tecumseh's group of Indians, and then travelled along the coast of Lake Erie burning mills which were important to the economy of British Canada.

Also, Christian's daughter Elizabeth married my GGG Grandfather David. A photo from history that belongs in the Steele album!



Zavitz Mill, circa 1815

We live in a technological age. I can convert cassette tapes to CD, and in this way, I have saved old radio programs and music tapes in a playable form. In the near future, I hope to convert the many audio tapes (interviews mainly) in the HEIRS library to CD form and make these available to our members.

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**Our generation has, I believe, the last good opportunity to put the 'family history' together in complete form. With looser standards of marriage and behaviour, family connections are blurred and without the use of DNA are often murky at times.**

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The more we seniors can put into place now, the better the framework our families will have to build on. Please consider allowing HEIRS to help you duplicate what you have and put it into digital form.

**This would benefit both HEIRS & the owners of the materials... an offer you can't refuse!**

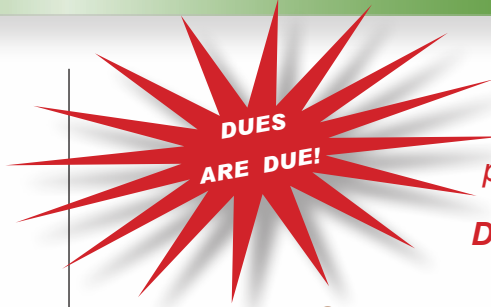
# HEIRS Resource Centre

**Open Sept. - June** (Dec. excepted)  
Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM - 3PM  
Wednesday & other appts: Call to confirm.

## Newsletter

Published 9 times per year, in conjunction with General Meetings held on the 4th Thursday of the month, from September to June, (December excepted).

**Receive full colour newsletters by email, or a B&W print version by regular post. Simply provide your email or street address to our office.**



**Memberships**  
\$25 CDN / U.S.  
per person or couple  
**Due: April 30th, 2018**

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

Please include phone, postal address, email and the family names you are now researching.

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

*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.*

## Board of Directors

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