



## Dedicated to Preserving our Heritage Resources

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requests from far way places. We are really fortunate that so many of our volunteers have an in-depth knowledge of our communities. A virtual

December 2020

We had such great plans for 2020! We started off really well with a most successful Heritage Fair in February. Then Covid-19 became reality and we closed our doors from March to September. The doors were closed but like many of you, we worked from home! We digitised the Heritage of Lobo negatives; we did research; we planned for re-opening in Covid-safe facilities; made presentations for the Municipality of Middlesex Centre's Strategic Plan and lots more. Like many of you, we sorted "our things" at home and made donations to MCA etc. With the help of a donation from Flynn Companies (London), we were able to open with PPE, even for Annex B. Annex B is being used as a quarantine area for new documents coming to the Archives. After being quarantined, these documents move to Annex A where they are sorted and processed before going to storage in the Archives.



People have been very busy sorting while at home. We have received many donations including the records for the former Lobo Mutual Insurance Company. Although only one person at a time (by appointment) is allowed into the Archives, it has been a busy place. Some of you are researching too - your family history, property history, organisations' histories. We have increased research

presentation about MCA was made on December 5<sup>th</sup> to the members of the London-Middlesex Branch of Ontario Families (OGS). We received positive feedback and great interest in the Archives.

Inside the Archives itself, the Archivist and volunteers are busy sorting, numbering shelves and computerising the data to make finding and retrieving the files much easier. This tremendous amount of work and organisation will make our tasks easier in the Archives when looking for the materials you are requesting. It may also gain us some much-needed shelf space!



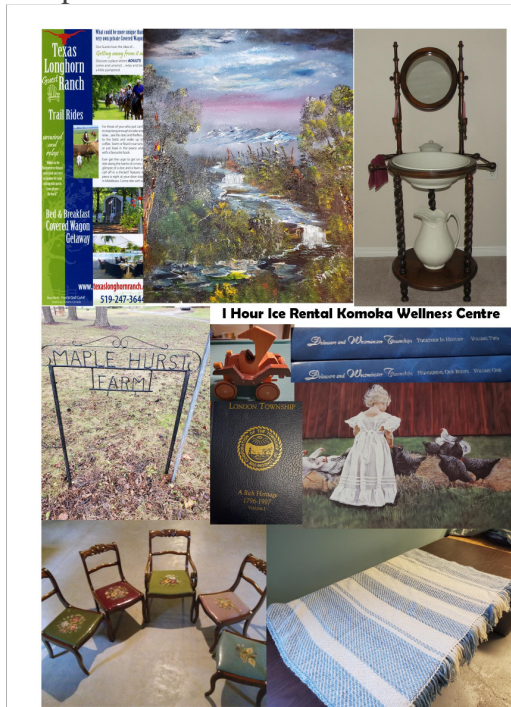
Have you got your 2021 MCA calendar yet? This year, the calendar features some churches past and present in Middlesex Centre. The calendars are available for \$15 at:

**Ilderton**– Floral Temptations; **Arva** – Arva Flower Mills, **Birr** – Crunican Orchards; **Coldstream** – Marsh Store; **Komoka** – Foodland; **Delaware** – BJ's Country Market, Delaware Variety and MCA. For \$18, MCA will mail you one.

2021 memberships are available online at [www.middlesexcentearchive.ca](http://www.middlesexcentearchive.ca) or check Middlesex Centre Archives on Facebook. Memberships are \$15.

As you have probably guessed, our Heritage Fair scheduled for February 2021 is cancelled. Usually by this time our plans are well underway for that event. 2022 - Count on the return of this event!!!!

However, we have a new venture planned! We are excited to present an "Online Auction"!



[www.filsonauctions.ca](http://www.filsonauctions.ca) is hosting an online auction for MCA that opens for viewing on February 1<sup>st</sup> and closes on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Thanks Ray and Dave! We are promoting buy local and of course, Valentine's Day!

We are accepting donations until January 15<sup>th</sup>. Nothing is too small and nothing is too big! We have many local historical books, including all the 3 Township histories, antique furniture, appliances, tools, handmade textiles, exquisite handwork, culinary delights (including a triple chocolate cheesecake from Mayor Aina), ice rental time from Municipality of Middlesex Centre, prints from local artists Tammy Laye and the late Ron Nickles, local produce, china, jewellery, trail rides, antique car ride etc. There is something for everyone! If you would like to donate to the auction, please contact a committee member – Bev Hughes – 519-666-0542; Mary Vanderwal– 519 666-0815 or Carol Small – 519-666-1488. In the meantime, bookmark [www.filsonauctions.ca](http://www.filsonauctions.ca) and mark your calendar for February 1<sup>st</sup>.

MCA must raise \$47,000 each year to cover costs that include specialised archival materials, rent, Archivist employment, etc. The Municipality of Middlesex Centre does supply the Archives space, heat, power, telephone and Internet. To them, we are most grateful. We do apply for many grants. This year we have received a Department of Canadian Heritage - COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sports Organisations. However, the majority of our budget is realised through donations. We are very appreciative of our corporate sponsors and local organisations such as Lions' Clubs, Women's Institutes, IAS, and others. We are most grateful to our dedicated volunteers who donated 4124 hours in 2019. Personal donations, and memorial and special occasion donations do makeup a large part of our budget. We are a registered non-profit organisation that does issue tax receipts for donations over \$20. Please consider giving to MCA.



MCA Heritage of Lobo Collection 2015-0011-V.48-010  
1906 Christmas Card from Will Thirlwall to nephews David and Johnny (better known as Jack)

*The MCA Board of Directors, Archivist, and Volunteers wish to thank you for your support throughout 2020. We look forward to seeing you in 2021. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and all the best in 2021! Please stay safe!!!!*

Check us out on Facebook, Twitter or our webpage.

Carol Small, Chair  
Middlesex Centre Archives

Weather permitting:  
Open Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
First and Third Saturday of month 1 – 4 p.m.  
(closed on holiday weekends)  
Closed December 17, 2020 to January 12, 2021

Email: [middlesexcentearchives@gmail.com](mailto:middlesexcentearchives@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.middlesexcentrearchive.ca](http://www.middlesexcentrearchive.ca)

