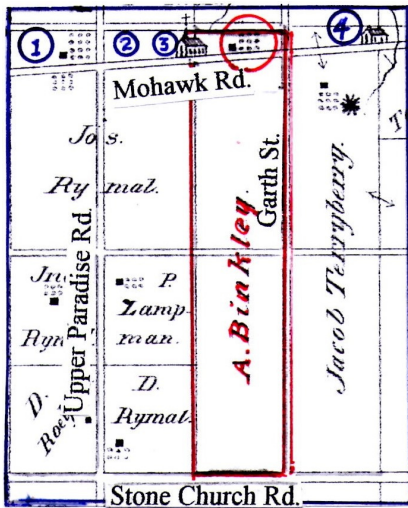


St. MARTIN'S MANOR: A Eureka Heritage Moment

By Robert Williamson

This "Memories" column continues to investigate the heritage of Mountain families in their neighborhoods. This month we focus on a large house on the north side of Mohawk Road between Westcliffe Mall and Garth Street. An 1875 Wentworth Atlas shows the house with a large established farmyard orchard, as part of **Arthur Binkley's** 200 acre grant extending south of Mohawk Road as far as Stone Church Road.



1875 Atlas Map

#1 Wm. Rymal's home,
2 Future site of Westcliffe Mall,
3 Saint Peter's Church / Cemetery,
4 Mohawk Trail School.
Binkley's homestead is circled in red.

Bounded on either side by Jos (Joseph)

Rymal and Jacob Terryberry farms, Binkley was likely part of the wave of Pennsylvania Deutsch pioneers, following William Rymal's lead, settling along the west mountain's Mohawk Trail circa 1800. Their pioneer shelters evolved into substantial homes like Binkley's # 500 Mohawk Road West.

My visit to St. Peter's Cemetery close by the Binkley house provided a "Eureka" moment It confirmed my supposition of intermarriage between early settlers. Headstones in the Binkley plot reveal that George Binkley married Margaret Rymal. Their four year old son, **Joseph Arthur Binkley**, died in 1878. We can surmise that he was named after his grandfathers: **Joseph** (Jos) Rymal and **Arthur** Binkley, both second generation mountain settlers.

Today, the property once owned by Arthur Binkley, houses Catholic Family Services (CFS) programs. According to Kathy Holmes, Team Leader of the Young Parent Program, this includes St. Martin's Manor's Young Parent & Children Centre founded

on this site in 1954. Established with the encouragement of Bishop Ryan it provided shelter, medical care and emotional support to pregnant youth of the day. Celebrating its 65th anniversary of service this year, the Manor's programs have evolved over the years to meet the changing needs of young parents and their children. To accommodate these changes, many renovations and expansions have occurred. Today, the building supports a residence for twelve young mothers and their children, a licensed child care for forty children and outreach programs to serve young families in the community. In addition to this, CFS also offers counselling, developmental services and family group conferencing for the community.



The renovated Binkley house at 500 Mohawk Road West is now St. Martin's Manor. The elegant front entrance is a replica of the original. David Lindeman photo

Mountain Memories, written by historian Robert Williamson for the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society appears monthly. See the Society's website <Hamiltonheritage.ca>

Next public meeting: Thursday, Sep. 19 @ 7:30. Topic: Movie Night Showcasing Hamilton's Past. Join us at South Gate Presbyterian Church, 120 Clarendon Ave. Free parking.