



Bailey's Bulletin

Volume 16 Issue 1

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A publication of the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society Founded September 1996

Our Society's logo was designed by Jim Elliott, who was a retired graphic artist and charter member of the HMHS. We are proud to display this logo on the masthead of our newsletters and stationery.

Bailey's Bulletin is named in honour of the Reverend T. Melville Bailey, who was a proud Mountain resident and founder of the HMHS.

Bailey's Bulletin is published three times per year.

What's In A Name?

Mount Hamilton is used by churches, sport clubs and a horticultural society. Meanwhile Hamilton Mountain is the name of choice for government at the Federal, Provincial and Municipal levels, the Rotary Club, YMCA and this society.

In early 1997 the steering committee that had formed met to discuss a name for this organization. Many suggestions were put forward and debated including Mount Hamilton Historical Society.

The overriding feeling, however, was that Hamilton should be emphasized in the name, to give weight to the physical location of the society and acknowledge that the Mountain was part of the city. There was a good argument put forth that those using electronic means to search for information pertaining to the Mountain would use Hamilton as their first search term. Very forward thinking on the part of the founders.

Indeed a Google search of Mount Hamilton yields 28 million results,

including those churches and sporting clubs. But it should be noted that the second result is for Mount Hamilton, California. The second page of results includes Mount Hamilton, Nevada. By contrast the results of a Google search of Hamilton Mountain return 41 million results, with the third one being the HMHS. (superseded only by the SilverCity Cinemas and Wikipedia). The results are virtually exclusively devoted to the Mountain in Hamilton, Ontario.

Heritage versus Historical? History is the study of past events which is just part of the mandate of the Society. Heritage is about identity and belonging: which those who began this organization wished its members, and the general public, to have.

At the General Meeting of the newly formed organization, on March 20, 1997, a motion was passed to adopt the name, "Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society".

Lee Gowers, HMHS President

First Mountain Mill Plaque Unveiled

On November 8, 2011 a significant heritage plaquing event occurred on the Mountain. Not only does the plaque recognize the site of the first mill built on the escarpment at the head of Lake Ontario, but it was paid for by a community business. Two years ago the owners of the Old Mill Restaurant, Mary-Lou Ciancone and her son Aaron, were approached about their participation in paying for a commemorative plaque. They welcomed the opportunity to support the community's mill heritage that originated on their property. Thus the JPSC went to work creating an attractive and historically accurate plaque.

One of the first obstacles was to look beyond the popular myths and unsubstantiated stories about the location of the first mill. Good sleuths know that you cannot solve a mystery on hearsay evidence: you must go to original sources. In this case the Ontario Archives and the Map Library of McMaster University.

A copy of the original 1791 map by surveyor Augustus Jones showed the Indian trail from Richard Beasley's cottage (Dundurn Castle) to Ancaster following Lower Lion's Club Road along the face of the escarpment until it reached the gap cut by Ancaster Creek at Sherman Falls (Old Dundas Road). The first mill built by James Wilson with investment capital provided by Richard Beasley, was recorded by Jones in his survey notes, as being located on this trail (Old Dundas Road) leading to the Mohawk Village (Brantford).

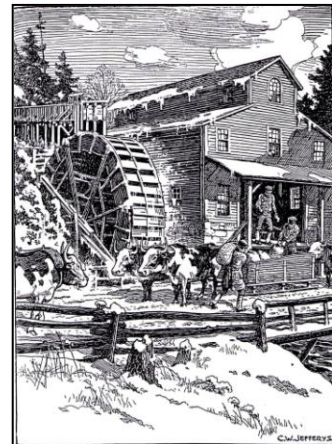
Documents at the Ontario Archives revealed an eye witness account of the Wilson Mill by Patrick Campbell in 1791. He described the mill as being at the foot of a rock precipice over which water poured on the head of an overshot waterwheel.

That mill was purchased by Jean Rousseau who developed the village site now called Ancaster above the junction of Wilson and Rousseaux Streets.

A facsimile of the plaque was presented to the students of Rousseau School to encourage their interest in their community heritage and its relationship to their school name.

Ancaster Counsellor Lloyd Ferguson and Aaron Ciancone performed the unveiling of the "Mills of Ancaster" plaque which is now a part of the beautiful waterfall landscaping. Guests were invited to a champagne reception in the restaurant.

Submitted by Robert Williamson



C.W. Jeffrey sketch of a wooden mill of the 1791 period

Programme Dates for 2012

Meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held at Olivet United Church, 40 Empress Avenue on the third Thursday of January, March, May, September and November. Occasionally special meetings are arranged in buildings of historical interest. All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and visitors are most welcome.

JANUARY 19, 2012 ST. JOHN AMBULANCE CENTENNIAL

St. John Ambulance is celebrating 100 years of service to the citizens of Hamilton. Did you know that volunteers have given over two millions hours of voluntary service during that time? Tom Allan, KStJ, HMHS member and author, will tell about the organization and its involvement in Hamilton-Wentworth over the past 100 years.

MARCH 15, 2012 IT JUST ISN'T SO!

Bob Williamson will set the record straight as he tells of local and world historical 'facts' that are fervently believed but are not true.

MAY 17, 2012 SANE OR MADE INSANE?

A case study of 10 women admitted to the Hamilton Asylum (later the Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital) from 1876 to early 1900. Were they insane or made insane? That is the question! Dr. Christine Lei will be the guest speaker.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2012 A NIGHT AT THE ARCHIVES

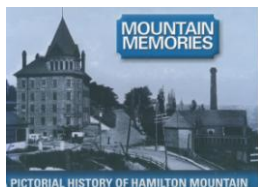
Join us at the Educational Archives & Education Centre of the HWDSB as we mark the 130th year of the Mohawk Trail School. EAHC Manager John Aikman will explain the evolution of the Centre, followed by a tour of the facility.

HMHS Memberships

The annual membership fee for the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society is \$20 for an individual or family. The membership year is January to December so it's now time to renew. Visit Sandra at the next meeting to purchase or renew your membership - or submit your fee to our mailing address (see back of newsletter).

In what year did mail delivery to homes on the Mountain begin?
(Answer is on the back page.)

Mountain Memories



Get the answers to all the trivia questions used in the Bailey's Bulletin right from the source! In its 4th and final printing this lovely hardcover coffee table book sells for \$35 per copy. With over 150 pages and 290 photos this book is a 'must have'. Visit the publication table at the next meeting or call Pat at 905.383.1308.

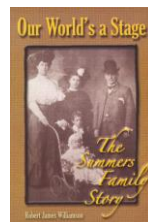
Also available:

Our World's a Stage - \$10

Barton on the Mountain-by Mabel Burkholder-\$10

Reproduction maps of Wentworth County (1875) - \$10

Auchmar: the War Story, a DVD - \$15



Do you remember?

The Glenlea Dairy? Owned and operated by brothers Murray and Ross Quinn the dairy occupied the building at 638 Concession Street. That building housed the milk processing and bottling plant while the barn used to stable the horses was beside it. Glenlea moved their business to Crockett Street and was succeeded by Maple Leaf Creamery in the late 1930s. It was renamed Maple Leaf Dairy after World War II. With the advent of television in the 1950s, Wilfred Rice TV moved into the premises and has remained there ever since.

How about the Union Mission? Dedicated on Christmas Day 1860, the building was on Concession Street between what is now 22nd and 23rd. The Mission was used by many denominations over the years including the Salvation Army, Methodists and Baptists. The building was torn down in 1952.

From Mountain Memories

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*1912 - this year marks 100 years of mail delivery to homes on the Mountain -
for those of you lucky enough to have home delivery!*