



Bailey's Bulletin

Volume 17 Issue 1

January 2013

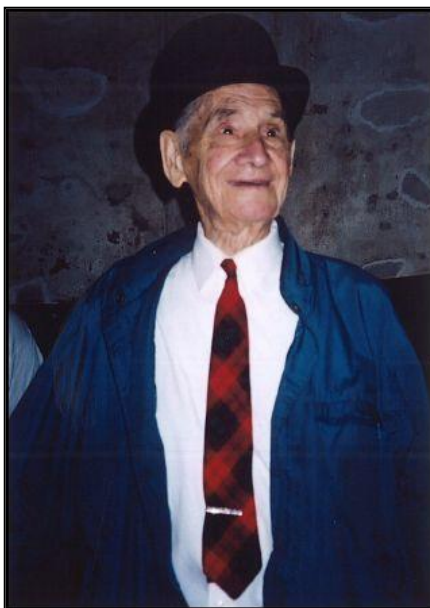
A publication of the
Hamilton Mountain
Heritage Society
Founded September
1996

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.

Rev. T. Melville Bailey: Founder of the HMHS



Mel Bailey: minister, historian, mentor, father, husband, uncle and friend. Add to that the founder of several heritage groups including the Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society, the MacNab Circle and the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society. Wow! Can one person be all this? Well that was and is my Dad. He would have celebrated his 100th birthday on November 17, 2012.

Mel was born in Hamilton to Mary and Charles Bailey. He and his twin sister, Margaret, were the youngest of nine children. He grew up across

from Dundurn Castle where he often played as a child, always wondering about who lived in that castle.

An athlete, he competed in track and field events at the first British Empire Games, held in Hamilton. Mel worked for the CPR for 15 years before getting the Lord's call to serve. In 1949 he was admitted to Knox College at the University of Toronto, often hitch-hiking to get there as he didn't own a car. He was ordained in 1952, following in the footsteps of his three uncles who were also Presbyterian ministers. He became the first minister of South Gate Presbyterian Church in 1954, and served there until his retirement in 1980.

Tragically Mel and his wife, Jean, lost their two sons in a boating accident while vacationing up north. Jean died a few years later of cancer. Mel remarried and he and his wife Janet had a daughter. He was also father to a son.

Always interested in local history Reverend Bailey was the author of several books on Hamilton and Dundurn Castle. (continued...)

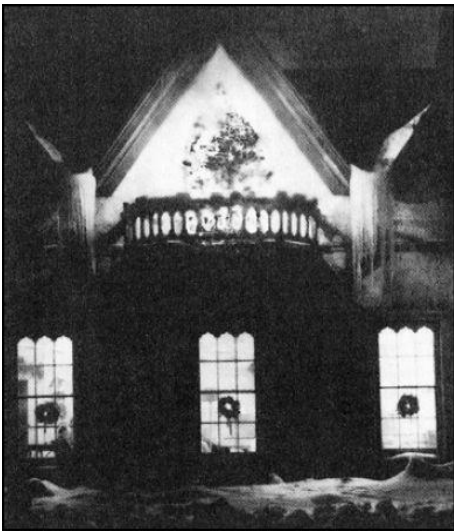
Mel was admitted to the Hamilton Gallery of Distinction in 1994. Mel passed away on January 29th, 2005, his daughter's birthday, at the age of 92.

In 2009 the Hamilton Historical Board established the Rev. T. Melville Bailey Heritage Award. Years have gone by and still

Mel Bailey is remembered by his family and friends - especially those in the Society he formed: the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society of which his daughter is now an executive member.

Photo and article courtesy of January Bailey Will

Heritage Homes Celebrate Christmas



Auchmar, c.1944.



The Voelker House, 2012.



Doug Embleton (left) and Stuart Leslie (right) renew acquaintances with Viva Voelker at her home in December 2012. Mrs. Voelker provided the films that eventually became the DVD: Auchmar: The War Story.

Tea with Mrs. Voelker

In mid-December four members of the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society were privileged to take tea with Mrs. Viva Voelker and her family. Her three daughters and a grandson welcomed us into the heritage home in Waterloo. The Voelker house was one of the first buildings in Waterloo to receive heritage designation, in 1977. Dubbed 'The Christmas House' by one of the grandchildren, there are similarities in photos of Auchmar at Christmas and the Voelker House at that time of year.

Mrs. Voelker is the widow of Dr. Phillip Voelker, who was the physician posted at Auchmar when it was used as an RCAF Convalescent Hospital during WWII. Her daughter, Linda, was baptized at Auchmar, while Mary Lou loved to spend time with the horses when she visited. All the children remember shouting out on family film nights "Hamilton hospital, Daddy!"

When doing research for Mountain Memories, specifically looking for photos of Auchmar, Doug Embleton came across copies of The Tonic, the in-house newsletter of the hospital. In it he found photos with names. In what he thought would be a fruitless effort he found the name Voelker in the phonebook and gave a call. He was informed that Dr. Voelker had passed away but his family still resided there and would be happy to help him out. Doug and his wife Amy made the trip to Waterloo and while visiting and getting photos were told that coloured films from 1943 also existed. They were stashed away but arrangements were made to collect them at a later date. Stuart Leslie was then called and together the two men brought their find to the executive of the HMHS. Stuart found somebody who could save the film and convert the images to a more modern format. Music and commentary were added and the video Auchmar: The War Story resulted. Mrs Voelker was in attendance at the meeting where the video was premiered.

For Remembrance Day 2010, the Spectator ran a story about Auchmar and the RCAF that mentioned the video was now available as a DVD. The family became aware of that article this past fall and the requests for the DVD came flooding into the HMHS. Maggie Voelker, who now lives with her mother, told that 'Mom hasn't been able to watch the video since a granddaughter bought her a new TV that will only accept DVDs'.

Mrs. Voelker, who will be 98 this spring, enjoys afternoon tea with some of her homemade cookies each day.

We are looking forward to a return visit to the Voelker House in the spring to see the gardens, (over 1000 daffodil and narcissus bulbs were planted this fall) and flower boxes with copper liners that Dr. Voelker made while stationed at Auchmar. The repainting of the exterior of the 1849 (yes, it's older than Auchmar!) home should also be completed.

June Outing 2013

A limited number of seats are available for this year's June Outing which will take place on Saturday, June 8th. Organizer Tom Allan has planned a wonderful day beginning with a bus ride to the Waterloo Central Railway Station where we will board a train bound for St. Jacobs. After some free time at the Market we will have lunch at the Mennonite Church, followed by a tour of the region. Tom promises a surprise stop on the way back to Hamilton. The cost of the trip is \$48 per person.

Heritage Comes Home 2013

On Saturday, February 23, beginning at 11 a.m. the Hamilton Historical Board will host Heritage Comes Home on the second floor of City Hall. Heritage societies, including the HMHS, will have tables for displays and publications. At noon the Hamilton-Wentworth Heritage Association will conduct ceremonies and present Heritage Volunteer Recognition Awards. Evelyn Haslehurst and Don Babb have been nominated by the HMHS for awards this year. In addition the Rev. T. Melville Bailey Heritage Award will be presented. We hope to see many members there to join in the fun and offer congratulations to Evelyn and Don.

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. Visit Sandra at the next meeting to purchase or renew your membership - or submit your fee to our mailing address. Membership forms are available on our website: www.hamiltonheritage.ca.

Honours for HMHS members

Four members of the HMHS executive have received Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals. They are: Robin McKee, John Reid, Patricia Saunders and Robert Williamson.
Congratulations to all!

Did you know? The first Home & School Association on the Mountain was at Brantdale School. The next associations were formed at Peace Memorial, Onteora and George L. Armstrong.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Fee: \$20.00 per calendar year. (January to December)

Hand in OR mail to: Membership Secretary,
The Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society,
P. O. Box 60506,
Mtn. Plaza R.P.O.,
Hamilton, Ontario L9C 7N7

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ **Province** _____

Postal Code _____ **Phone Number** _____

Email Address _____