

## MOUNTAIN MEMORIES

Presented on behalf of the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society <http://www.hamiltonheritage.ca>  
By Hamilton Historian Robert Williamson

A pink granite stone in the Burkholder cemetery on Mohawk Road East is dedicated to the memory of the Burkholder family, refugees of the American Revolutionary war, who settled there in 1794. Like many Pennsylvania Deutsche (German) United Empire Loyalists whose family names became Anglicised, they accepted land grants along the Indian track known as Mohawk Trail. The headstones in this cemetery and St Peter's Cemetery on Mohawk Road West, as well as street names and neighbourhoods remind us of this important ethnic pioneer group: Almas, Binkley, Bowman, Felker, Hess, Martin, Munn, Neff, Ryckman, Rymal, Snyder, Terryberry, and Young, to name a few.

The Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society will feature the history of Burkholder at their September meeting. See website above for more information.



The first Burkholder Church 1850 - 1967 was built on the east side of the settlement cemetery on Mohawk Road. The oldest headstones dating back to 1817, lie under the oak tree. *Church archive photo*

Today, the oak tree still shelters the original headstones, but the site of the original church is now a parking lot for the church hall and modern sanctuary. *Williamson photo*



(September, 2013)