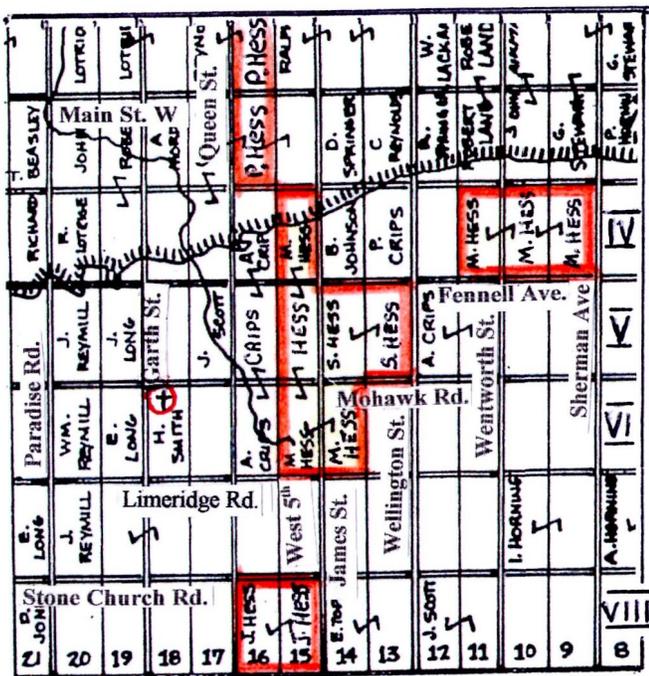


## HESS HERITAGE RESTORED

By Robert Williamson

Most of you have heard of “Hess Village” located in downtown Hamilton between Queen and Bay Streets. It is a vibrant social centre with restaurants, pubs and sidewalk cafés. However, very few people realize that the heritage of that neighborhood is connected historically with the Hamilton Mountain. Its major streets, Hess and Caroline, are named for Peter Hess and his daughter, Caroline.

Peter, youngest of Michael and Charity’s sons, including Samuel and Jacob, came to Canada in 1789. They and their fellow immigrants, Aaron Kribs (Crips), Henry Smith and William Rymal (Reymill), were escaping from persecution by their post-war American Revolutionary neighbors in Mount Bethel, Pennsylvania. They followed the Mohawk Trail to the top of the escarpment in what would become Barton Township. Here they laid claim to crown land grants in close proximity to each other, adjacent to the only existing road. They were amongst the first names to appear on Augustus Jones’ survey map of 1791.



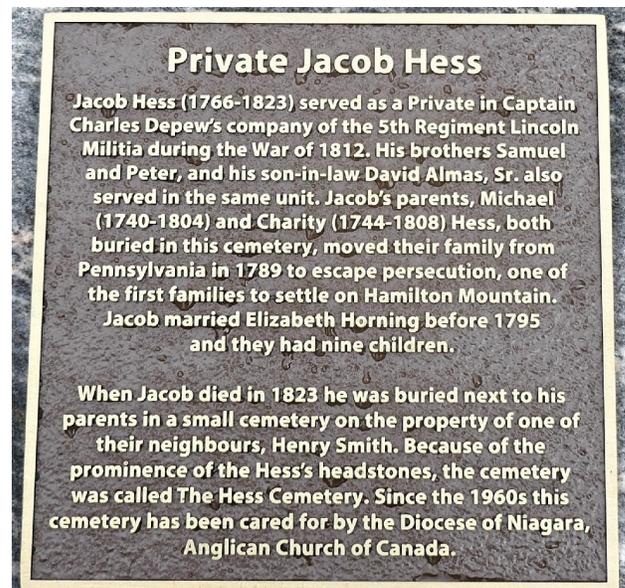
The Southwest corner of Barton Township including the Niagara Escarpment, was surveyed by Augustus Jones in 1791. It shows the names of the earliest settlers and their crown grants. The cross in the red circle on Henry Smith’s grant is the site of the present Church of the Resurrection. Modern Street names have been added by R. Williamson.

Source: *Hamilton Heritage, Wentworth Bygones, Volume 14 1984, Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society, page 17.*

Because Michael had a large family, seven daughters and three sons, he was given two large crown grants of land: 400 acres along present Upper James at the headwaters of Chedoke Creek and 300 acres along

present day Fennell Avenue. His oldest son, Samuel, received 200 acres along present day Mohawk Road. When Jacob and Peter reached adulthood they each acquired an additional 200 acres; Jacob along Stone Church and Peter along Queen Street, the aforementioned Hess Village site.

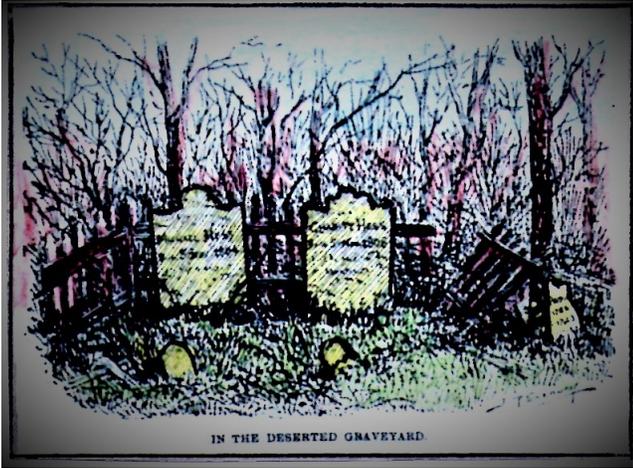
Over the intervening 230 years, all evidence of the extensive Hess family on the Mountain has disappeared with the exception of three broken grave stones preserved in the Fireside Room of the former St. Bartholomew’s Church (reformed in 2000 as Church of the Resurrection) on the southeast corner of Garth Street and Mohawk Road. Fellow immigrant, Henry Smith established a communal cemetery there and Michael, Charity and son Jacob were buried at that site before it fell into disuse in 1823. It was replaced by St. Peters cemetery further west on Mohawk Road.



Thanks to Clare Stewart and Iain Sneyd of the church’s Memorial Archive Committee, a rededication ceremony was held in the church yard on Sunday October 6, 2019. The Hess family heritage was restored and the 1812 military service of Jacob, Samuel and Peter was recognized on a memorial plaque installed where the cemetery once stood. *Photo by Joe Mielko. See more photos <Hamiltonheritage.ca> Bailey’s Bulletin, November 2019.*

### NOTICE:

Because of the growing concern for the spread of the COVID-19 VIRUS, the lecture by John Terpstra, author of “Daylighting Chedoke” the History of the West Mountain scheduled for Thursday March 19, 2020 @ 7:30, has been postponed to a later date.



Hess Cemetery at Mohawk and Garth. Sketch by J. R. Seavey, Wentworth Landmarks