



Hamilton

CITIZEN COMMITTEE REPORT

HAMILTON HISTORICAL BOARD JOINT PLAQUING SUB-COMMITTEE

To:	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee	
From:	Bill Manson, Chair Hamilton Historical Board	_____ Signature of Chair
Date:		
Re:	Rymal Family Heritage Commemorative Plaque (Report 09-004(HHB)) (Ward 8)	

Recommendation:

That the wording for the Rymal Family Heritage commemorative plaque, hereto attached and marked as Appendix A to Report 09-004(HHB), be approved.

Background:

This plaque has been requested by members of the Rymal family. Research was conducted by the Joint Plaquing Sub-committee with the assistance of the Rymal family.

The Rymal family is significant to Hamilton's history as they were one of the first settlers on the Hamilton Mountain. The family settled on the West Mountain, in what is currently the Upper Paradise area. The Rymal family helped forge the way for the early development of the area, which has been reflected in the naming of many of the area streets.

In addition to early settlement, the Rymal family saw several members rise to various levels of government, such as representation of the Upper Canada Legislative Assembly and a Federal Member of Parliament. The family also provided assistance to William Lyon MacKenzie, grandfather of future Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon MacKenzie King, in his struggle for responsible government across the future nation of Canada.

The attached commemorative plaque text (Appendix A to Report 09-004(HHB)) was approved by the Joint Plaquing Sub-committee on 7 July 2009 and by the Hamilton Historical Board on 14 July 2009.

**SUBJECT: Rymal Family Heritage Commemorative Plaque
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Financial Implications:

The funds for the manufacture and installation of the Rymal Family Heritage commemorative plaque are provided by the Rymal Family and the Mountain Heritage Society.

Analysis/Rationale:

It is the mandate of the City of Hamilton Joint Plaquing Sub-committee to recognize Hamilton sites of architectural, prehistoric and/or historical importance with commemorative plaques. Plaques may be awarded for the following reasons.

Architectural Reasons which may include age, style and/or location.

The building is noted for one or more of the following characteristics:

- an outstanding example of an architectural style
- an exceptionally early building
- an unusual building, type, structure, or composition
- the first or last of a kind
- an important visual landmark
- a special relationship between building and site
- the work of a major architect
- a group of buildings which form an important streetscape
- an exemplary restoration or adaptive re-use project

Historical/Prehistoric Importance

- close association with a noteworthy person (to recognize his/her lasting importance; selected because of his/her association with the place)
- close association with a noteworthy event
- effectively illustrates a significant, broad pattern of cultural, social, political military, economic or industrial history or pre-history

Staff Consultation:

Yes X No

Director, Culture Division, Community Services
Manager of Museums & Heritage Presentation, Community Services
Heritage Presentation Coordinator, Community Services

Revised Submission approved by Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society,
March 12, 2009
APPROVED at JPSC – July 7, 2009
APPROVED at HHB – July 14, 2009

RYMAL FAMILY HERITAGE

William Rymal (1759-1852), his wife Barbara and his younger brother along with their family members obtained, through crown grants and purchases, 800 acres of land on either side of Upper Paradise Road from the escarpment to Rymal Road. Arriving as United Empire Loyalists of German descent from Pennsylvania, they were amongst the first settlers on Hamilton Mountain. William's homestead was built in 1789 on the north side of Mohawk Road to the west of what is now Westcliffe Mall. St. Peter's Cemetery to the east of the mall began as the Rymal family burial ground where they built the first church on the mountain (1811–1844). It was a two-storey, wooden, universal meeting house called the Union Church.

William's son, Jacob (1790-1858), married Christine Horning and became the Wentworth County representative in the Upper Canada Legislative Assembly. His large wooden frame home once stood behind St. Thomas More High School on Upper Paradise Road. A reformer, Jacob was known to have sheltered a rebel associate, William Lyon Mackenzie, providing him with a fresh horse as he fled from military authorities during the Rebellion of 1837, part of the struggle for Responsible Government in Canada.

Jacob's son, Joseph (1821-1900), was the longest serving Liberal Member of Parliament for the federal riding of South Wentworth (1857-1882). He participated in the Canadian Confederation debates. Well-known for his integrity and lucid debating skills with a penchant for barn-door humour, he was called "Honest Joe". He married Lydia Terryberry and, although their farm on the site of William Rymal's original homestead was sold to the Sanatorium, their house still stands at # 700 Mohawk Road West.

Hamilton Historical Board
Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society
2009

Word Count: 271

Prepared by Robert Williamson, Chairman, JPSC for Joseph Rymal Woolley.

Sources:

1. A Mountain and a City, M.F. Campbell, 1956,p. 11
2. Barton on the Mountain, Mabel Burkholder, 1956, p. 11
3. Census Returns for Barton Township 1851-2
4. Dictionary of Hamilton Biography, Vol. 1 1981, pp 176-77
5. Library and Archives Canada PA 033399, www.parl.gc.ca/information
6. Hamilton Genealogy Society, Rymal Family Tree 6
7. Hamilton Spectator, May 1937, Honest Joe Rymal
8. Mountain Memories, A Picture History, pp. 29, 132
9. Wentworth County Illustrated Historical Atlas 1875, p. 11
10. Wentworth Landmarks p. 57
11. Wentworth Bygones, 1958, Vol. 1, Crown Patentees of Barton township