

# Report on the Cemetery Entrusted to the Care of Church of the Resurrection, Anglican, Commonly Known as “The Hess Family Cemetery”

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Date: 2017.09.07

## Introduction:

Church of the Resurrection, located at 435 Mohawk Road West, Hamilton, has the privilege of caring for a pioneer cemetery. The purpose of this report is to provide information about the cemetery to

- the Corporation and Vestry of Church of the Resurrection,
- the Archivist of the Diocese of Niagara,
- the Diocesan Cemetery Consultant,
- Hamilton Municipal Cemeteries, and
- any other interested parties.



View of the cemetery © CCI Images 2017

## History of the Cemetery:

This cemetery is located on Concession 6, Lot 18 in the former Township of Barton, which is now part of the City of Hamilton.<sup>1</sup> It has been known by several names over the years: the Henry Smith Farm Cemetery, the Hess Family Cemetery, the Terryberry Cemetery, and the Hockley Farm Cemetery.<sup>2</sup>

John R. Gallagher, a descendant of the Hess Family, wrote that the land the cemetery is located on was owned by Henry Smith, a member of one of a small group of families that migrated from Pennsylvania to what was then Upper Canada in 1788 to escape persecution from the Americans because of their continued loyalty to Britain.<sup>3</sup> The other families were the Hesses, the Rymals, and the Kribs.

Only three members of the Hess Family were buried in this cemetery: Michael (1740-1804), Michael's wife Charity (1744-1808), and their second son Jacob (1776 -1823). Jacob served as a Private in the 5<sup>th</sup> Lincoln Militia during the War of 1812, together with his brothers Peter and Samuel, who are not buried in this cemetery.<sup>4</sup>

Others buried here include: Jane Snider (1781-1820), an infant son of Colonel Servos (1821), and Margaret Rousseaux and her two children. Gallagher wrote: "Because the three Hess gravestones occupied a prominent position in the cemetery it came to be known as the Hess Cemetery."<sup>5</sup> The cemetery was only active between 1804 and 1823.



Illustrations of the gravestones in 1897<sup>6</sup>

According to a report published by the Ontario Genealogical Society in 1988 the Hess Family Burial Grounds (CEM 312/MIS 032) may at one time have contained over 200 burials.<sup>7</sup> No records are available to substantiate this however. It is distinctly possible that the number 200 refers to the men who died of wounds and disease at the Union Church which was used as a hospital during the War of 1812, and who are said to have been buried in the churchyard.<sup>8</sup> This churchyard, which is located on the north side of Mohawk Road about 0.5 km from the Hess Cemetery, is now known as St. Peter's Cemetery. It replaced the Hess Cemetery.

In 1824 the land including the cemetery was purchased from Henry Smith by William Terryberry. The Terryberry family continued in ownership until 1890. In 1909 the lands were acquired by His Majesty the King (in right of Ontario) by deed. In 1959 the lands were surveyed in connection with a grant from the Crown to the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara<sup>9</sup> which purchased the land to build the former St. Bartholomew's Church. A condition of the sale was that the Church maintain the cemetery.

In 1996 the cemetery was vandalized and Michael, Charity, and Jacob's stones were broken up. The pieces of these stones were taken into the Church building for safe storage.<sup>10</sup>

In 2000 St. Bartholomew's Church was disestablished and came together with the former St. Timothy's Church to form a new parish, Church of the Resurrection. Elizabeth Sneyd, a parishioner, carried out a survey of the graveyard and the remnants of the Hess stones. She transcribed the text on the stones and made rubbings to the broken stones to preserve the appearance. The rubbings were given to the Church, but have since disappeared. A copy of her transcription and sketch of the cemetery layout are attached.<sup>11</sup>

## Current Condition of the Cemetery and Gravestones:

The current state of the stones and cemetery is similar to their condition in 2000. The lawn continues to be mown by members of Church of the Resurrection, although bushes have been allowed to grow wild.

Jane Snider's gravestone remains intact and is now well protected by surrounding bushes. It is in remarkably good condition because of this, although it was splashed with white paint at some time in the past.

The stump of a stone remains in the middle of a clump of bushes, near the previous location of the Hess stones. While it is impossible to determine whose gravestone this is, the remaining shape would suggest that it was part of Charity's gravestone.



Jane Snider's gravestone © CCI Images 2017



Partial gravestone © CCI Images 2017

Michael, Charity, and Jacob Hess's gravestones are carefully preserved in the non-functional fireplace in the Fireside Room of the Church. In August 2017 the pieces were sorted and the gravestones were assembled and photographed. Charts were made showing the layouts of the pieces and the pieces were labelled on the charts and on the backs of the pieces to facilitate future reassembly. The pieces were then placed back in the fireplace, with individual gravestones being separated by cardboard. The charts will be placed on top of the gravestones. The eventual plan is to secure the gravestones behind a door enclosing the opening of the fireplace.



Charity Hess's gravestone  
© CCI Images 2017



Michael Hess's gravestone  
© CCI Images 2017



Jacob Hess's gravestone  
© CCI Images 2017

The work of sorting, photographing, and cataloguing was carried out by Mike Deed, Rector; Iain Sneyd, Carl Sneyd, and Clare Stewart, parishioners; and John Terpstra, an interested party from the community. Mike, Iain, and Clare are members of the Archiving Committee of the parish.

Permission of the Corporation of Church of the Resurrection having been obtained, members of the Archiving Committee will work towards obtaining and having installed a War of 1812 commemorative plaque for Jacob Hess. Further details will follow.

## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Quinsey, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Burial Grounds in Hamilton Area, p. 5.

<sup>3</sup> Gallagher, p. 10.

<sup>4</sup> Blair.

<sup>5</sup> Gallagher, p. 17.

<sup>6</sup> Lauder, et al., pp.50-52.

<sup>7</sup> Burial Grounds in Hamilton Area, p. 5.

<sup>8</sup> Gallagher, p. 31.

<sup>9</sup> Quinsey, p. 1.

<sup>10</sup> Quinsey, p. 2.

<sup>11</sup> Sneyd.

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## References:

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<https://warof1812cdnstories.blogspot.ca/p/5th-lincoln-militia-muster-roll.html> Accessed  
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The Hamilton Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. "Burial Grounds in Hamilton Area, Barton Township, Wentworth County, Ontario. Cline Family Cemetery – CEM 359/MIS 032, Hess Family Burial Grounds - CEM 312/MIS 032, Ryckman Family Cemetery – CEM 323/MIS 032, Young Family Plot - CEM 271/MIS 032". 2nd ed., 2006.

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Alma Dick Lauder, et al. *Wentworth Landmarks: A Series of Articles Descriptive of Quaint Places and Interesting Localities in the Surrounding County*. The Spectator Printing Co., 1897, reprint The Ryerson Press, 1967.

John Quinsey. "Henry Smith Farm (Hess/Terryberry) Cemetery". Compiled for Hamilton Branch of O.G.S., April 1996, rev. Nov. 1999.

Elizabeth Sneyd. "Transcription of Hess Graveyard Stones". 2000.

### **In the Graveyard**

1. In Memory of Jane Snider, wife of John Snider  
Born 11<sup>th</sup> April, 1781  
Died 11<sup>th</sup> May, 1820
2. Unknown - the stone has sunk into the ground; only the top of it is visible.

### **In the Fireside Room**

(The pieces of the stones were reassembled where possible. Rubbings were then made in order to preserve the appearance)

1. In Memory of Jacob Hess, who was born Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, 1766 and departed from this life Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, 1823; aged 57 years, 2 months and 7 days. (Bottom of Pile)
2. In Memory of Charity (? Only CHA\_\_TY remains) Hess, who [died on 5<sup>th</sup>?) Nov. 1808, [aged 64 ?} years. (Middle of Pile)
3. In Memory [of] Michael [?] Hess, who [died on] Nov 1804; aged 64 [?] years. (Top of Pile)

PARKING  
LOT

CHURCH OF THE RESSURRECTION  
435 MOHAWK RD. W.  
HAMILTON

CEMETARY PLOT

AT S.E. CORNER OF PARKING LD.

N 103'

KNOLL

W

E

130'

120'

116'

S

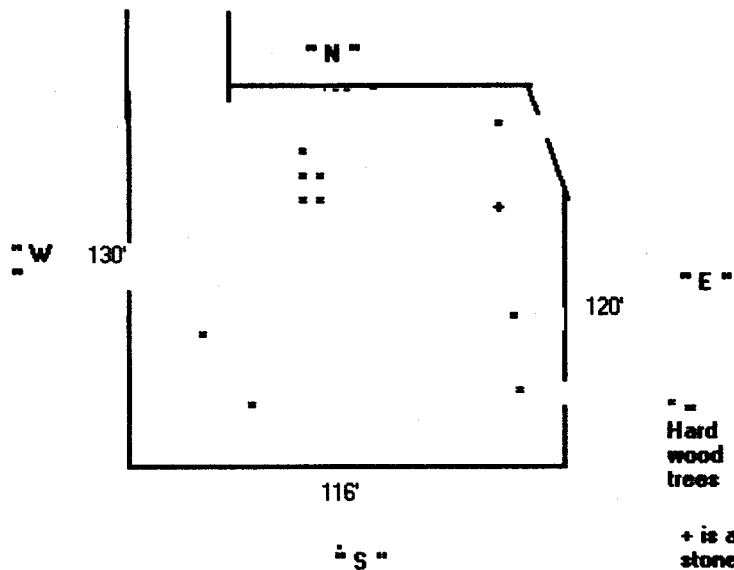
● HARDWOOD  
TREES

— GRAVE STONE

b 1781

d 1820





Church Of The Resurrection  
435 Mohawk Rd. W.  
Hamilton  
Cemetery

## Memorial Archive Committee – Update on Jacob Hess

As we reported at Vestry, Iain Sneyd and Clare Stewart have proven that Jacob Hess was a veteran of the War of 1812. We submitted a biography and proof of service to Graveside Project, a group that works to recognize the service of Canada's War of 1812 veterans.



IN THE DESERTED GRAVEYARD.

Our application has been accepted and we have received a memorial plaque. Jacob also appears on Graveside Project's website. The link to his page is: <http://gravesideproject.ca/?p=3985&lang=en>.

Here is more information about Jacob and his family:

Jacob Hess (15 Nov 1766-07 Oct 1823) was a member of one of the first families to settle on Hamilton Mountain. Jacob's father Michael (1740-1804) and his wife Charity (originally called Gertrude) (1744-1808), descendants of Palatinate immigrants, moved with their children to Canada from Mt. Bethel, PA, USA in May 1789 because of increasing fear of persecution for their loyalty to Britain.

The Hess family settled in the area of what is now West 5th and Mohawk Road West in Hamilton, ON, formerly Barton Township. Because of his large family, Michael received a land grant of 700 acres. Jacob petitioned for his own land grant and received 200 acres of land on Concession 8, Lots 15 & 16, south of his father's property.

Jacob married Elizabeth Horning (1767-1852) about 1793 and they had nine children, two boys and seven girls.

Jacob Hess served as a Private in Captain Charles Depew's company of the 5th Regiment Lincoln Militia during the War of 1812. Jacob's brothers Samuel (1764-1861) and Peter (1779-1855) also served, Samuel as a Private in Depew's company with Jacob and Peter as a Lieutenant in Captain Peter Bowman's company, 5th Regiment Lincoln Militia. Jacob's eldest daughter, Hannah (1795-08 Aug 1872) married David Almas, Sr. who was a Sergeant in the 5th Regiment Lincoln Militia during the War of 1812 and after the war a Lieutenant in the 3rd Regiment Gore Militia.

When Michael Hess died in 1804, he was buried in a small cemetery on the property of one of his neighbours, Henry Smith. In 1808, Charity was buried next to him. When Jacob died 07 Oct 1823 of unknown causes, he was buried next to his parents. Because of the prominence of the Hess's headstones, the cemetery came to be called The Hess Cemetery. This is the cemetery that is now in the care of our parish.

Clare and Iain discovered that they have a personal connection to the Hess Family. Michael Hess was Clare's 5th & 6th great grandfather, and Iain's 6th & 7th great grandfather. It's complicated as we are descended from both Jacob's first and third daughters.

On Sunday, October 6, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. there will be a ceremony at the entrance to the cemetery to dedicate the 1812 Veteran's stone and a historical marker telling Jacob's history. Please join us to mark an important part of our parish's history.

Clare Stewart and Iain Sneyd, Memorial Archive Committee, May 2019