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Early home & farm bldgs. of
Mr & Mrs Alonzo Hagell



Same home & bldgs
BUT - Years later



Hagell Family
Ruth (Mrs Eric Steele, Jim,
Betty (Mrs Donald Lindsay) &
Mr & Mrs Alonzo Hagell

As curator of the Tweedsmuir History, I wish to express my appreciation to everyone who has contributed information and pictures to this book. Those who have worked so hard on the Tweedsmuir Committees deserve special mention. For many years these were Mrs. Agnes Silverthorn and Mrs. Opal Falkins. The Falkins girls did the typing. Since the Falkins family moved to the Simcoe area, a new committee consisting of Mrs. Lena Green, Mrs. Florence Harper, Mrs. Bessie Bagnell, and Mrs. Mary Pressey has worked very hard to complete the book. A great many others have been very helpful. Special mention should be made of Mrs. George Elliott, Mr. Alex Scott, and the late Mrs. Gladys Stimers who provided a great deal of information and took a special interest in the book. Mrs. Helen Green has done all the typing for the book during the past year. The Xerox Co. of London has kindly assisted us by copying the book for us. To all of these people I express sincere thanks.

Lillian White



Mrs. Agnes Silverthorn



Mrs. Opal Falkins



Mrs. Lillian White

HISTORY OF THE CORINTH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

It was on the second day of July, 1926 that the Corinth branch of the Women's Institute was organized in the old Ellsworth store which was situated where Mrs. Zelpha Pressey now lives. Mrs. W. J. Dunn of Luton was in the chair. The following officers were elected:

President - Mrs. Robert Firby
1st Vice-President - Mrs. Jackson Firby
2nd Vice-President - Mrs. Cecil Best
Secretary-Treasurer - Miss Ruby Jenkins
(later became Mrs. Harley McCurdy)
District Director - Mrs. Chester Forrest
Auditor - Miss Erie Amoss
District Representatives - Mrs. R. Firby,
Mrs. J. Firby
Miss R. Jenkins

It was decided to hold regular meetings on the second Thursday of the month at 2:30 p. m.

It was decided at the first regular meeting on July 22 to hold a contest to secure new members. Mrs. G. Turnbull and Mrs. A. Borbridge were chosen as captains and the contest was to close on August 26, 1926. The contest was to see which side could get the most members to join. The membership for 1926-27 showed 89 members on the roll.

The old school house was purchased in 1927 to be moved to the village for a hall. The purchase price was \$182.75. Land was purchased from Mr. H. P. Robertson for \$100. The building was moved in June 1929 by Mr. A. McConkey and son at a cost of \$125.

The community was canvassed on three occasions, in July 1929, September 1929 and May of 1930, for funds for the hall. The Double Four Club gave a donation of \$42.43 to be used for building the platform in the hall. The material and paint for the building of the lobby was donated by Mr. Firby and Mr. Fewster. The mortgage was paid off on December 6, 1935.

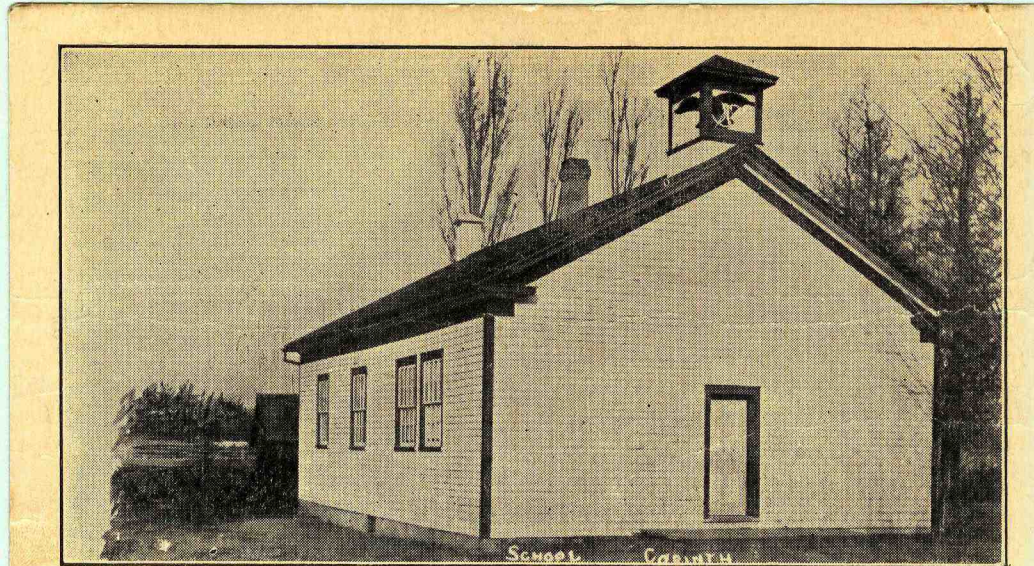
The first meeting to be held in the Community Hall was on December 10, 1931. The hall was wired for electricity in January 1932 at a cost of \$87.59.

Money needed for the hall was raised by dinners, bazaars and quiltings which were held in the old store across from the hall. This was known as the Bearss store and afterwards purchased by Mr. W. Fewster. At one bazaar the ladies had 45 quilts ready to be sold. An autograph quilt was made in 1931 and sold to Mr. Bert Evans, a former resident of the community, for \$50. Over \$100 was realized from the sale of the quilts.

During the period from 1926-35 other projects that were undertaken by the Institute were helping burned-out families, sewing for needy families, helping with the support of an Armenian boy, a Doctor's home in Tobermory and donations to Northern Ontario family.

From the years 1935 to 45 special projects that were supported were donations to war organizations, homemakers clubs, oratorical contest, Navy League, Hospital and Red Cross.

Approximately \$262 was donated for different organizations for war work during the war years. From 1945 to 1959 donations were given to Scholarship fund, Institute for the Blind, Museum in St. Thomas, Oratorical, Hospital, Muscular Dystrophy, Retarded Children's school in Tillsonburg, Cancer society and flood fund in Manitoba.



1862

Will ye no come back again?

1927



Mrs. Chester Forrest, formerly Bessie Brown of Corinth, Ontario.
Charter Member of Women's Institute

CORINTH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (Cont'd)

In September 1944 an all day quilting was held in the hall. The object in having the quilting was to get Mrs. A. Ronson out to the meeting. A presentation was made to her because they had sold their home here and were leaving the district. The picture was taken at that time.

The Centennial of Bayham township was held in 1950. Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Ford and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ford returned for this event. While they were here the friends in the Women's Institute had asupper in the hall and any of the old friends of the district were asked to come. The picture was taken outside the Institute Hall.



Back Row: Mrs. Gould, Mrs. H. Ford, Mrs. G. Beard, Mrs. N. McConkey, Mrs. H. Taylor, Mrs. Young, Mrs. A. Pressey, Mrs. W. Nelson, Mrs. V. Bradburn.

Second Row: Mr. N. McConkey, Mrs. C. Ford, Mrs. C. Turner, Mrs. H. Ford, Mrs. A. Silverthorne, Mrs. B. Brown, Mrs. F. Stimers.

Third Row: Mr. C. Ford, Mr. H. Taylor, Mrs. Sinden, Mr. C. Turnbull, Mrs. S. Moore, Mr. G. L. Nelson.

Front Row: Mr. H. G. Coomber, Mr. C. Beemer, Rev. J. N. Gould

Picture donated by Mrs. Edna McConkey.

Back Row: Irene Gilbert, Marion Murphy, Mary Nelson, Mary Kerr, Mrs. H. G. Coomber, Mrs. C. Jackson, Mrs. E. Brown, Mrs. H. Coomber.

Front Row: Mrs. H. Foster, Mrs. G. L. Nelson, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. A. Ronson, Mrs. C. Turnbull, Mrs. G. Stafford, Mrs. W. Fewster, Mrs. H. Taylor, Mrs. A. Pressey.

Picture donated by Mrs. F. Stimers



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (Cont'd)

May 20, 1959 the Institute District Annual was held in Corinth. This picture was taken at the noon meal in the Institute Hall.



Picture Donated by Mrs. Florence Harper

Determination, hours of planning and hard work were found to be the requirements necessary for a successful food concession at the International Plowing Match of 1960. It was held on the farm of Mr. Hume, west of Springfield from October 11 to 15. The Women's Institute served full course meals for the four days. A tent 16 x 28 was erected and a kitchen built on the back by using a large tarp. Homemade pies were made in advance and frozen to be cooked as needed. One group met and made 50 apple pies, another raisin pies, and others cherry pies. Equipment for the tent, such as 2 refrigerators, a six burner gas stove, 2 three burner gas plates, grill, hot dog machine, 3 section sink, tables and benches were collected from Port Burwell to London and from Springford to Straffordville. About 16 to 20 ladies were at the tent each day, while other ladies of the community cooked at home and prepared vegetables.

Hard work? Yes, but the reward was

increasing the bank account by about \$500 and the happy experience of working together. Most of the money was spent on improvement of the hall. A new roof, which had been put on the hall the year previous, was paid for and the interior of the upstairs of the hall was redecorated.

On July 6, 1961 a picnic reunion was held in the park in Tillsonburg. It was thirty-five years since the Corinth Institute had been organized. All former members were invited. The picture was taken in the Park.



Picture Donated by Freda Pressey



Picture Donated by Mrs. D. Falkins

