



MRS. MAHLON GRIFFIN

1920 - 1921

Mrs. Griffin was the daughter of William and Elizabeth (Dingman) Welter of Copenhagen. Following her marriage to Mahlon Griffin, son of one of the earliest settlers on Nova Scotia Street, they lived on the Griffin homestead near the Stalter Gully.

After selling the farm, they moved to Aylmer where Mrs. Griffin became keenly interested in the work of the Women's Institute, serving as District President from 1920 - 1921.

Mr. and Mrs. Griffin spent their later years in London, Ontario.



MRS. JOHN BRAY

1921 - 1922

Mrs. John Bray was the former Emily Wilson born in 1884, April 29th in Colchester, North Essex County.

She attended public and high school in the town of Essex and graduated with Grade 13 standing. Taking teacher's training, she taught in Essex, Hastings and Alberta for 8 years.

Married John Ansel Bray in Aberdeen, South Dakota in 1911, then returned and lived on the Bray farm at Mapleton for 54 years. In 1965, Mrs. Bray became a satisfied resident at Elgin Manor.

During her years as a member of the Women's Institute she was District President from 1921 to 1922.

Mrs. Bray has a son living in Alberta and a daughter in Dunnville, Ontario.



MRS. STEPHEN D. HAIGHT

1922 - 1924

Mrs. Stephen D. Haight was born Ida Blanche Charlton, daughter of Peter Charlton and Jemima Caughell in 1861 at Mapleton, Ontario, (one mile east of Lyons on 10th Concession of South Dorchester).

Blanche Charlton married Stephen Dow Haight on September 23, 1886, in Dakota Territory, U.S.A. where they farmed near Watertown, South Dakota. When Mr. Haight became ill, he brought his family back to Canada in 1892, and resided on Lot 6, Concession 2 of Yarmouth Township, Elgin County. Stephen Haight died on May 20, 1897, in his 42nd year.

This couple had two children, a son William who resided on Lot 7, Concession 2, Yarmouth Township, and was born in 1891 and passed away in 1939. A daughter, Hazel married Leopold Macaulay and they resided in Toronto, Ontario.

Mrs. Haight was an active member of the Baptist Church and the Historical Society in St. Thomas. She was the first president of South Yarmouth Women's Institute when it was organized in 1920, having been president of the South Yarmouth Patriotic Society prior to the organization of the Institute.

Mrs. Stephen D. Haight died on January 8, 1936, at Toronto, Ontario, but is buried in the Union Cemetery, Union, Ontario.

Acknowledgement: Information received from Miss Mary Macaulay, Victoria, B.C. (a granddaughter). 1973.
Photograph received from Miss Macaulay. Reprint taken by Jim Newman, St. Thomas, Ont.
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MRS. WILLIAM DUNN

1924 - 1926

Lilian Richardson was born on December 9, 1873, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Richardson of Luton.

On February 16, 1898, she became the bride of William Dunn, with the wedding taking place at the home of her parents, Evergreen Lawn, east of Luton.

Besides raising her family of three children, a son Arthur, and two daughters, Helen and Mabel (Mrs. Fred Herries of Orwell), she was active in the work of the Women's Institute in the Luton Branch.

From 1915 to 1921 she was secretary of the East Elgin District and then in 1924 to 1926 she was president of the District.

Mrs. Dunn was also active in the work of the church being secretary of the Ladies Aid of the Luton Methodist Church (later United Church) and also taught a Sunday School class.

Mrs. William (Lilian) Dunn passed away in November 1940 and is buried in the Aylmer cemetery.



MRS. GEORGE W JACKSON

1926-1928.

Mrs. Jackson was ~~born~~ in Springfield, the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Robins, receiving her education at public school and continuation school. As a young girl she was very active in Young Peoples' work of the Methodist now United Church. She was the first leader of the C.G.I.T. in that church.

She was married in 1914 to George E. Jackson, telegraph operator of the New York Central R.R. In 1918 Mr. and Mrs. Jackson transferred back to Springfield as agent for the N.Y .C. R R. At this time she became interested and joined the Womens' Institute, and became president of the local branch, later secretary of the same branch.

She left Springfield in 1929, moving to St. Thomas, where she was president many years of the former missionary society and the Women's Association of Central United Church, until ill health prevented her from being active.

Mrs. Jackson is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, a past Worthy Matron, Past District Deputy Grand Matron of the order.

It was during the term of Mrs. Jackson as District President that the Sparta Sorosis W.I. was organized.

MRS. JOHN EVERT

1928 - 1929

Mrs. John Evert (Laura Gertrude Simpson) was born at Lyons, Ontario, December 13, 1880. Her parents were John W. Simpson and Jane Jackson.

Mrs. Evert received her early education at the Lyons Public School, the Aylmer High School and then attended London Normal School after which she taught school at Essex, Crossley-Hunter and Lyons.

After she married John Evert, they went to live on the 8th Concession of South Dorchester. They lived there a few years and in the meantime built a house on the Evert homestead on Lot 21, Concession 9, South Dorchester. It was in this house the children were born, a daughter Gertrude, (Mrs. William Holmes) and a son, Ross.

Mrs. Evert joined the Kingsmill-Mapleton W.I. when the family were quite young and held the offices of president and secretary as well as other offices in the Branch and served as president of the East Elgin District from 1928 to 1929. For several years the Kingsmill-Mapleton W. I. were divided into two groups to raise money and Mrs. Evert worked hard in Crossley-Hunter group and held many parties and meetings at her home.

Mrs. Evert was a member of the Church of Christ in Aylmer. For many years she taught as a Sunday School teacher for the Crossley-Hunter Bible Class. She was always lending a helping hand to neighbours up and down the road.

Mrs. John Evert remained an active member of the Women's Institute until her death on February 2, 1943. She is buried in the Aylmer cemetery.

MRS. NEY CHUTE (BATE)

1929 - 1931

Mrs. Ney Chute was born Mary Rosabel Teetzel daughter of James N. & Elizabeth Teetzel of Sparta, on December 15, 1870. A schoolteacher, she came to teach at S. S. # 3, Malahide, Lakeview School in January, 1890. About a year or two later, she was married to Ernest Ney Chute (born March 24, 1860 and died May 19, 1930), son of Charles and Tamer (McConnell) Chute of Lakeview. They lived on a farm there where Mr. Chute died.

Some time after his passing, she married a widower, Harry Bate. On the death of Mr. Bate, Mrs. Rosabel (Teetzel, Chute) Bate went to live with her daughter, Mabel Louise Chute (Mrs. Frank Brackenbury).

Mrs. Chute (Bate) died on November 3, 1956. She is buried beside her first husband, Ney Chute in the Fingal cemetery in a plot by her parents.

Mrs. Chute (Bate) was a member of Lakeview Women's Institute and was District President from 1929 to 1931. During her term of office as District President she organized and installed the officers of North Yarmouth W.I. on October 17, 1930.

This picture was taken of Mrs. Chute (Bate) when she was 80 years of age.



Acknowledgement: Information received from Mrs. Beecher Haggan, Lakeview. January, 1973.

Picture received from Mrs. Frank Brackenbury, Aylmer, Ont. (daughter) Feb. 1973.

MRS. ROBERT W. FIRBY

1931 - 1933

Mrs. Robert W. Firby, whose maiden name was Mary Jane Turnbull, was born on December 3, 1872, about four miles east of the village of Corinth. She was the daughter of Mary Jane McClean and James Turnbull, a native of Scotland. She attended public school in Corinth, Ontario.

In 1890 she married Harrison Fewster of Zenda, Ontario. They lived on a farm at Zenda where her only child, a son, William James Fewster, was born in 1892. After leaving Zenda, Mary Jane and Harrison moved to Delmer, Ont. where they owned a General Store. They later moved to Corinth, Ont. and kept a General Store and Post Office until Harrison Fewster died in 1919. Their son, William James Fewster who married Eliza Jane (Jean) Holland of Brownsville, continued as storekeeper and postmaster in Corinth until 1945. He died in 1960. Mrs. Harrison Fewster had 3 granddaughters who are Mrs. Roy (Maryll) Bowman, Toronto; Mrs. Maurice (Gladys) Pratt, Brownsville; and Wilma Jean Fewster, Simcoe.

In 1923, Mary Jane Fewster married her second husband, Robert W. Firby. They resided in Corinth until Mrs. Firby's death on August 5, 1938, in her 66th year.

Mrs. Firby was a member of the Corinth United Church where she sang in the choir and was organist for some time. She was an active worker in the Ladies Aid of the church and was interested in community activities.

Mrs. Robert Firby was the first president of the Corinth Women's Institute when it was organized on July 2, 1926 and held this position until 1938.

Mrs. Firby gave a detailed and interesting speech to the Richmond W. I. in February, 1932, on the pioneer life of Elgin County from 1803 to 1876, entitled, Pioneer Life in This County a Century Ago.





MRS. NEIL (BLANCHE) CURTIS

1933- 1935

Mrs. Neil (Blanche) Curtis was the eldest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs John Gilbert of the Edgeware Road, North Yarmouth. Her great-grandfather Richard Gilbert and his family came from Devonshire in 1831 and settled on 400 acres taken up from the Crown. This family were the first to settle on the Edgeware Road. Mrs. Gilbert's father was Joshua Lewis, who was of United Empire Loyalist stock, also an old settler of North Yarmouth.

Mrs Curtis was educated at the St. Thomas Collegiate Institute. Upon graduation she went to Lakeside Hospital, Cleveland, and went in training as a nurse. After her graduation she was with the Public Health unit in Cleveland. In the Spring of 1918 she enlisted as a nurse with the U.S.A. Red Cross, and went to France. There she was assistant to Miss Harriet Leet, who had charge of Military Hospital No 5, located just outside of Paris. With the end of the war in November she volunteered for work with the refugees in the Aegean Islands, and was stationed on the Island of Nudylyene, where work rooms were set up and supervised.

She was married to Mr. Neil Curtis of North Yarmouth. His family was of pioneer stock, also coming from Devon. Mr. Curtis Passed away in 1930.

In 1930, while she was member and officer of the Kingmill-Mapleton branch of the Womens Institue she organized at the home of Mrs. Roy Baker in October 1930. This branch drew its members from the Glen School area, and Mrs Curtis was the first president of the new branch, and is now a life member of the North Yarmouth W. I. She was president of the East Elgin District during the years 1933- 1935.

Mrs. Curtis was always public minded and generous of time and talent. She was in charge of the Red Cross work rooms at Yarmouth Centre during World War 2.

She has been a faithful member of First United Church, St. Thomas and is also active in the Senior, Hospital Aid. For a number of years, she and her sister Mrs. E. A. Douglas have made their home together in St. Thomas.