



HISTORY OF EDEN WOMENS' INSTITUTE.

1952 1954.

The little hamlet of Eden, situated on No, 19 Highway, between Tillsonburg and Port Burwell is over 100 years old yet had never had a Branch of the Womens' Institute until 1952. There were branches in villages near but it was felt that there were a large number of farm and village women in Eden and surrounding country who were not members of any branch.

A Community Club had already been organized in the village. A white brick building which had been the two-roomed Eden Public School was no longer in use since the children were being transported by bus to the Area Public School in Straffordville. This seemed an ideal place for the meetings of a branch of the W.I.

May 21, 1952, Eden Womens' Institute was organized: Present to explain and assist with the organization were- Miss Helen Martyn, Pres. of East Elgin District Executive, Mrs. W.C. Wheaton, Pt. Stanley, District Sec. Treas., and Mrs. Gillett, Tillsonburg,

The meeting opened with the Ode followed by the Lord's Prayer. Miss Martyn explained the purpose of the Women's Institute. A sing-song was then enjoyed with Mrs. Ayrest Stillwell at the piano. Mrs. Wheaton then explained the duties of the Sec'y. Treas. and Mrs. Gillett of the Board of Directors of East Elgin spoke on activities of the W.I. Mrs. W. Benner conducted the election and explained the duties of the various officers.

The first slate of officers for the Eden Branch included:-

- President- Mrs. Wiltshire
- First Vice Pres.- Mrs. Chas. Davis
- Second Vice Pres.- Mrs. Ayrest Stillwell
- Secy. Treas.- Mrs. O. Fletcher
- Assistant Sec. Treas.- Mrs. R. Sivyver
- Dist. Director- Mrs. J.C. Inman
- Directors- Mrs. H. Beaman, Miss Margaret Craven,
Mrs. W. Brown, Miss Pearl Hodgkins.
- Standing Committees--
- Historical Research and Current Events- Mrs. Blake Caswell
- Agriculture and Can. Industry - Mrs. Ray Roloson
- Citizenship and Education- Mrs. R. Hart.
- Home Economics and Health- Mrs. Ayrest Stillwell
- Community Activities- Mrs. Geo. Moore
- Pianist- Mrs. Chas. Davis
- Assistant Pianist- Mrs. A. Stillwell
- Flower Com- Mrs. J. Capling and Mrs. R. Veitch
- Auditors- Mrs. F. Stem and Mrs. G. Jenkins
- Convenor for Resolutions- Mrs. P.D. Augustine.

The officers of the Eden Branch were installed by Mrs. C. Williams London Area Representative. The meeting was then turned over to the new President, Mrs. Wiltshire, who thanked the District Officers for their assistance in organizing. It was decided to hold the meetings on the first Friday of each month at 8 P.M.

We started in June 1952 with 18 members and in June 1954 the membership is 39. We all enjoy the meetings which are usually held in the Community Centre, although sometime we accept an invitation to meet in a home. As we are only two years old, our history at this time is short but we hope to have a longer and more interesting report of our work in the years to come.

We co-operate with the Eden Community Club in many ways. We help with their annual Garden Party, bringing pies to sell in the booth and help to serve the refreshments. We have purchased dishes and silver for use in the Community Centre to be used by the Community Club as well as the W.I.

Each year we have had a Hallowe'en Party for the people of the village and especially for the children, held in the Community Centre.

In the fall of 1953 we held a Rummage Sale of used clothing and other articles. We had a very large assortment of good used clothing, bedding, etc., donated by the members and their friends. These were sold at very reasonable prices. This sale took place at the Community Centre and proved a very successful venture. Some heavy woollens, coats, etc., which were not sold were taken to a woollen-mill later where they were made into blankets which were sold later.

We are planning a Bazaar for the fall of 1954 and each month members are asked to donate articles for sale, one month aprons, another month fancy work, etc., later on preserves and pickles.

Some interesting programmes which we have had included:-

- 1- A demonstration in a home kitchen of making Angel Cake, also recipes for home-made ice-cream with caramel topping. These were later served for lunch.
- 2- A local florist gave a demonstration of floral arrangements.
- 3- A nursery man gave a lecture and films on landscaping the home grounds.
- 4- A demonstration on felt-craft was one evening's programme.
- 5- A Public Health nurse for Elgin County gave a lecture on her work.
- 6- Several members and their friends gave talks, sometimes with films, on vacation trips they had enjoyed.

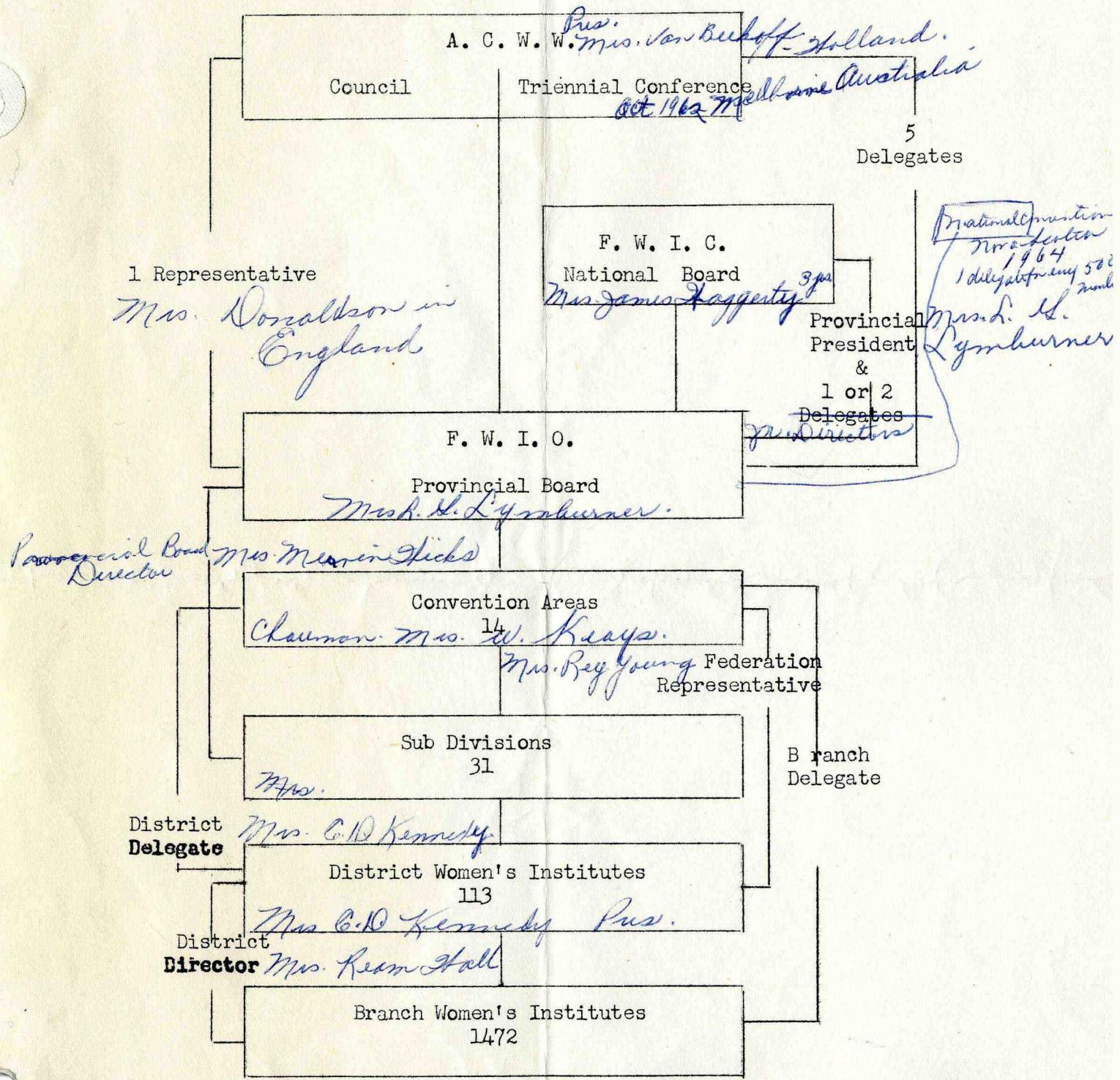


Institute Branch Formed at Eden

Miss Gladys McMullen
Mrs. Os. Ostrander
Mrs. Edna Scanlan
Mrs. Geo. Moore
Mrs. Lou. Bentley
Mrs. Ross Sivyer
Mrs. Ray Roloson
Mrs. Cecil Ball
Mrs. Harry Beaman
Mrs. Harley Howey
Mrs. Clarence Inman

Mrs. Leslie Cowan
Miss Margaret Craven
Mrs. Olive Fletcher
Mrs. Harold Wiltshire
Mrs. Chas. Davis
Mrs. Ayrest Stilwell
Mrs. Lloyd Raymond
Mrs. Blake Caswell

ORGANIZATION AFFILIATION



SIGNATURES OF EDEN W. I. BRANCH PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES.
(1952-- 1967.)

PRESIDENTS .

1952_53 Gladys Wiltshire.
1953_54 Eva W. Inman.
1954_55 Olive M. Kennedy.
1955-56 Olive M. Kennedy.
1956-57 Olive M. Kennedy.
1957-58 Margaret M. Craven.
1958-59 Margaret M. Craven.
1959-60 Mrs. Ream Hall.
1960-61 Mrs. Ream Hall.
1961-62 Irene B. Anderson.
1962-63 Irene B. Anderson.
1963-64 Irene B. Anderson.
1964-65 Olive M. Kennedy.
1965-66 Etta Garnham.
1966-67 Etta Garnham.

SECRETARIES .

Miss M. Fletcher.
Miss M. Kennedy.
Elizabeth I. Carson.
Elizabeth I. Carson.
Doris Raymond.
Miss Catharine M. McDowell.
Miss Catharine M. McDowell.
Frances M. Cowan.
Frances M. Cowan.
Violet Luce.
Violet Luce.
(Miss) Catharine M. McDowell.
(Miss) Catharine M. McDowell.
Irene B. Anderson.
Irene B. Anderson.

EDEN W.I. BRANCH MEMBERS.

1952

Mrs. P.D. Augustine
 Mrs. Harry Beaman
 Mrs. W. Brown
 Mrs. Cecil Ball
 Miss Margaret Craven
 Mrs. J.V. Capling
 Mrs. Leslie Cowan
 Mrs. Blake Caswell
 Mrs. Chas. Davis
 Mrs. Olive Fletcher
 Miss Pearl Hodgkin
 Mrs. J.H. Howey
 Mrs. B. Hart
 Mrs. J.C. Inman
 Mrs. Geo. Jenkins
 Miss Gladys McMullen
 Mrs. Geo. Moore
 Mrs. O.E. Ostrander
 Mrs. Lloyd Raymond
 Mrs. Ray Roloson
 Mrs. Edna Scanlan
 Mrs. Ayrest Stillwell
 Mrs. Ross Sivyer
 Mrs. Robt. Veitch
 Mrs. W. Wiltshire
 (25) Members)

1957

Mrs. P.D. Augustine
 Mrs. Harry Beaman
 Mrs. Mac. Ball
 Mrs. Cecil Ball
 Miss Marg. Craven

 Mrs. Leslie Cowan
 Mrs. Blake Caswell
 Mrs. Chas. Davis
 Mrs. C. Kennedy
 Mrs. Lou Bentley
 Mrs. J.H. Howey
 Mrs. B. Hart
 Mrs. J.C. Inman

 Miss CathY McDowell
 Mrs. Geo. Moore
 Mrs. Foster Langohr
 Mrs. Lloyd Raymond
 Mrs. Ray Roloson

1962

Mrs. Hans Anderson
 Mrs. Robt. Allen
 Mrs. Mack Ball
 Mrs. Stanley Backus
 Mrs. Verne Baldwin
 Mrs. Mark Baldwin
 Mrs. Wm. Baldwin
 Mrs. Blake Caswell
 Miss Margaret Craven
 Mrs. T. Craven
 Mrs. Ross Carson
 Mrs. Leslie Cowan
 Mrs. Ida Cook Cook
 Mrs. Chas. Davis
 Mrs. Phil. Fish
 Mrs. Lee Garnham
 Mrs. Ream Hall
 Mrs. J.C. Inman
 Mrs. C.D. Kennedy
 Mrs. Ray Roloson
 Mrs. M. Luce
 Mrs. Acel Langohr
 Mrs. Foster Langohr
 Mrs. Geo. Moore
 Miss Catharine McDowell
 Mrs. Chas. McDowell
 Mrs. E. McCurdy
 Mrs. John Tanner
 Mrs. Frank Wencel
 (29) Members

1953

(Members added)

Mrs. Stanley Backus
 Mrs. F. Bennett
 Mrs. M. Balazs
 Mrs. Lou. Bilger
 Mrs. T. Craven
 Mrs. Ross Carson
 Mrs. Offa Davis
 Mrs. J. Dennis
 Mrs. S. Foris
 Mrs. Lee Garnham
 Mrs. Ream Hall
 Mrs. John Nemeth
 Mrs. Ace Langohr
 Mrs. Don. Small
 Mrs. Harold Sawyer
 Mrs. T. Stem
 Mrs. R. Vance
 Mrs. John Lutkus
 (18 extra)
 (Total 43)

Mrs. Stanley Backus

 Mrs. Lou Bilger
 Mrs. T. Craven
 Mrs. Ross Carson

 Mrs. S. Foris
 Mrs. Lee Garnham
 Mrs. Ream Hall
 Mrs. A. Mayo
 Mrs. Asa Langohr
 Mrs. T. Lawrence
 Mrs. Harold Sawyer

 (Total 29)

1967

*Mrs. Hans Anderson
 Mrs. M. Baldwin
 Mrs. V. Baldwin
 Mrs. H. Baldwin
 Mrs. S. Backus
 Mrs. H. Beaman
 Mrs. B. Caswell
 Mrs. C. Cowan
 Mrs. L. Cowan
 Miss M. Craven
 Mrs. C. Davis
 Mrs. L. Garnham
 Mrs. R. Goldthorpe
 Mrs. R. Hall
 Mrs. S. Jenkins
 Mrs. C. Kennedy
 Mrs. A. Langohr
 Mrs. M. Luce
 Mrs. C. Mearns, auditor
 Mrs. O. McCurdy
 Miss C. McDowell
 Mrs. G. Moore
 Mrs. R. Roloson
 Mrs. H. Rusch, auditor
 Mrs. A. Shepherd
 Mrs. F. Wencel*