

Tweedsmuir History Curators

1952 - 4	Mrs Blake Caswell	1961 - 9	Mrs. Blake Caswell
1954 - 6	Mrs. Lee Gornham	1969 - 73	Miss Catharine McDowell
1955 - 8	Mrs. Leslie Cowan	1973 - 4	Miss William Baldwin
1958 - 9	Mrs. Blake Caswell	1974 - 8	Mrs Croft Gornham
1959 - 60	Miss Margaret Craven	1978 - 84	Miss Margaret Craven

Most members of the Eden H. I. as well as community residents, have over the years contributed many details, anecdotes, and photos for copy, which we have included to make the story of Bayham, particularly the Eden area, as complete and interesting as possible.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE BRANCH BEGUN
IN THE VILLAGE OF EDEN IN BAYHAM TOWNSHIP

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 Women's 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. Mrs. Eva Inman and Mrs. Frances Roloson called on local ladies to assess the interest in forming a branch in Eden.

On May 21, 1952, Eden Women's Institute was organized. Present to explain and assist with the organization were Miss Helen Martyn, President of East Elgin District Executive, Mrs. W.C. Wheaton, Port Stanley, District Secretary-Treasurer and Mrs. Gillett of 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 Stilwell at the piano. Mrs. Wheaton then explained the duties of the secretary-treasurer and Mrs. A. Gillett of the Board of Directors of East Elgin District 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. Harold Wiltshire----	First Vice-President	Mrs. Charles Davis
Second Vice			
President	Mrs. Ayrest Stilwell	Secy-Treas.	Mrs. O. Fletcher
Ass't Secy-Treas.	Mrs. Ross Sivyver	District Director	Mrs. J. C. Inman

Directors Mrs. Harry Beaman, Miss Margaret Craven, Mrs. Wm. Brown, Miss Pearl Hodgkins

Standing Committees:

Historical Research and Current Events	Mrs. Blake Caswell		
Agriculture and Canadian Industry	Mrs. Ray Roloson		
Citizenship and Education	Mrs. Robert Hart		
Home Economics and Health	Mrs. Ayrest Stilwell		
Community Activities	Mrs. George Moore		
Pianist	Mrs. Charles Davis	Ass't Pianist	Mrs. Ayrest Stilwell
Flower Conveners	Mrs. Jack Capling and Mrs. R. Veitch		
Auditors	Mrs. Fern Stem and Mrs. George Jenkins		
Convener 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 then 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 was 39. We all enjoy the meetings which have been held in the Community Centre, in the members' homes on invitation, and in the church hall, in later years. We co-operated with the Eden Community Club in many ways. We helped with their annual Garden Party, bringing pies to sell in the booth and help to serve the refreshments. We purchased dishes and silver for use in the Community Centre to be used by the Community Club as well as the W.I.

In early years the W.I. members held a Hallowe'en Party for the people of the village and especially for the children, held in the Community centre building. Other activities were collecting for the local United Appeal and also for funds for the school for Retarded children. 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 woolens, coats, etc., which were not sold were taken to a woollen mill later where they were made into blankets which were later sold.

A Bazaar was planned for the fall of 1954 and each month members asked to donate articles for sale, one month aprons, another month fancy work, etc. later on preserves and pickles.

Some interesting programs held in the early years included;

A demonstration in a home kitchen of making Angel Cake, also recipe for home-made ice cream with caramel topping. These were later served for lunch.

A local florist gave a demonstration of floral arrangements.

A nursery man gave a lecture and films on landscaping the home grounds.

A demonstration on felt craft was one evening's program.

A public Health nurse for Elgin County gave a lecture on her work.

Several members and their friends gave talks, sometimes with films, on vacation trips which they had enjoyed.

Charter Members of the Eden Women's Institute are

- Mrs. Cecil Ball
 - Mrs. Harry Beaman
 - Mrs. Lou Bentley
 - Mrs. Blake Caswell
 - Mrs. Leslie Cowan
 - ✓ Miss Margaret Craven
 - Mrs. Charles Davis
 - Mrs. Harley Howey
 - Mrs. Clarence Inman
 - ✓ Mrs. Clinton Kennedy
 - Miss Gladys McMullen
 - Mrs. George Moore
 - Mrs. Os. Ostrander
 - Mrs. Lloyd Raymond
 - Mrs. Ray Roloson
 - Mrs. Edna Scanlan
 - Mrs. Ross Sivyver
 - Mrs. Ayrest Stilwell
 - Mrs. Harold Wiltshire
- Mrs. P.D. Augustine
 - Mrs. Wm. Brown
 - Mrs. Jack Capling
 - Mrs. Robert Hart
 - Mrs. George Jenkins
 - Mrs. R. Veitch

✓ STILL MEMBERS IN 1989

Presidents

- 1952-3 Gladys Wiltshire
- 1953-4 Eva W. Inman
- 1954-5 Olive M. Kennedy
- 1955-6 Olive M. Kennedy
- 1956-7 Olive M. Kennedy
- 1957-8 Margaret M. Craven
- 1958-9 Margaret M. Craven
- 1959-60 Mrs. Ream Hall
- 1960-1 Mrs. Ream Hall
- 1961-2 Irene B. Anderson
- 1962-3 Irene B. Anderson
- 1963-4 Irene B. Anderson
- 1964-5 Olive M. Kennedy
- 1965-6 Etta Garnham
- 1966-7 Etta Garnham

Secretaries

- Olive M. Fletcher
- Olive M. Kennedy
- Elizabeth I. Carson
- Elizabeth I. Carson
- Doris Raymond
- Catharine M. McDowell
- Catharine M. McDowell
- Frances M. Cowan
- Frances M. Cowan
- Violet Luce
- Violet Luce
- Catharine M. McDowell
- Catharine M. McDowell
- Irene B. Anderson
- Irene B. Anderson



PHOTO INCLUDES MRS. JESSIE CASWELL AT OFFICERS CONFERENCE, GUELPH.

PHOTO DONATED BY
OLIVE KENNEDY

Lists of Eden Women's INSTITUTE MEMBERS at five year intervals:

1953

Members added to original list

Mrs. Stanley Backus
Mrs. M. Balazs
Mrs. F. Bennett
Mrs. Lou Bilger
Mrs. Ross Carson
Mrs. Thomas Craven
Mrs. Offa Davis
Mrs. J. Dennis
Mrs. Steve Foris
Mrs. Lee Garnham
Mrs. Ream Hall
Mrs. Ace Langohr
Mrs. John Nemeth
Mrs. Harold Sawyer
Mrs. Donald Small
Mrs. Fern Stem
Mrs. R. Vance
Mrs. John Lutkus

(total of 43)

1962

Mrs. Robert Allen
Mrs. Hans Anderson
Mrs. Stanley Backus
Mrs. Mark Baldwin
Mrs. Verne Baldwin
Mrs. William Baldwin
Mrs. Mack Ball
Mrs. Ross Carson
Mrs. Blake Caswell
Mrs. Ida Cook
Mrs. Leslie Cowan
Miss Margaret Craven
Mrs. Thomas Craven
Mrs. Charles Davis
Mrs. Philip Fish
Mrs. Lee Garnham
Mrs. Ream Hall
Mrs. J. C. Inman
Mrs. C.D. Kennedy
Mrs. Ace Langohr
Mrs. Foster Langohr
Mrs. Morley Luce
Mrs. Everitt McCurdy
Mrs. Charles McDowell
Miss Catharine McDowell
Mrs. George Moore
Mrs. John Tanner
Mrs. Frank Wencel
Mrs. Ray Roloson
(29)

1957

Mrs. P. D. Augustine
Mrs. Mack Ball
Mrs. Cecil Ball
Mrs. Harry Beaman
Mrs. Lou Bentley
Mrs. Blake Caswell
Mrs. Leslie Cowan
Miss Margaret Craven
Mrs. Charles Davis
Mrs. Robert Hart
Mrs. J.H. Howey
Mrs. J. C. Inman
Mrs. Clinton Kennedy
Mrs. Foster Langohr
Miss Catharine McDowell
Mrs. George Moore
Mrs. Lloyd Raymond
Mrs. Ray Roloson

(18)

Mrs. Stanley Backus
Mrs. Thomas Craven
Mrs. Ross Carson
Mrs. Lou Bilger
Mrs. Steve Foris
Mrs. Lee Garnham
Mrs. Ream Hall
Mrs. Ace Langohr
Mrs. Thomas Lawrence
Mrs. A. Mayo
Mrs. Harold Sawyer

(29)

1967

Mrs. E. McCurdy
Mrs. Verne Baldwin
Mrs. Violet Davis
Mrs. Ream Hall
Mrs. Blake Caswell
Mrs. Ace Langohr
Mrs. C. D. Kennedy
Mrs. Lee Garnham
Mrs. Les. Cowan
Mrs. Aquilla Haysler
Miss Catharine McDowell
Mrs. Tom. Baldwin
Mrs. Craft Samson
Mrs. F. Craven
Miss M. M. Craven

Members list at 5 year intervals

1972

Mrs. R. Allan
 Mrs. M. Alton
 Mrs. H. Anderson
 Mrs. M. Beckus
 Mrs. R. Baldwin
 Mrs. M. Baldwin
 Mrs. M. Ball
 Mrs. V. Baldwin
 Mrs. W. Baldwin
 Mrs. R. Carson
 Mrs. B. Caswell
 Mrs. C. Cowan
 Mrs. L. Cowan
 Mrs. L. Cowan
 Miss M. Craven
 Mrs. V. Davis
 Mrs. C. Garnham
 Mrs. L. Garnham
 Miss E. Goldthorp
 Mrs. R. Hall
 Mrs. J. C. Inman
 Mrs. R. Jackson
 Mrs. G. Jenkins
 Mrs. C. Kennedy
 Mrs. G. Langfield
 Mrs. A. Langohr
 Mrs. F. Langohr
 Mrs. T. Lawrence
 Mrs. M. Luce
 Mrs. A. Matthews
 Mrs. P. Matthews
 Mrs. O. McCurdy
 Miss C. McDowell
 Mrs. C. McDowell
 Mrs. G. Moore
 Mrs. A. Rempel
 Mrs. R. Roloson
 Mrs. W. Romaniw
 Mrs. A. Seymour
 Mrs. G. Shepherd
 Mrs. David Tucker

1977

Mrs. H. Anderson
 Mrs. M. Beckus
 Mrs. M. Baldwin
 Mrs. V. Baldwin
 Mrs. W. Baldwin
 Mrs. J. Caswell
 Mrs. C. Cowan
 Miss M. Craven
 Mrs. V. Davis
 Mrs. C. Garnham
 Mrs. L. Garnham
 Miss E. Goldthorp
 Mrs. R. Goldthorp
 Mrs. Jas. Grass
 Mrs. R. Hall
 Mrs. J. C. Inman
 Mrs. R. Jackson
 Mrs. G. Jenkins, auditor
 Mrs. C. Kennedy
 Mrs. C. Langfield
 Mrs. G. Langfield
 Mrs. M. Luce
 Mrs. A. Matthews
 Mrs. P. Matthews
 Mrs. O. McCurdy
 Mrs. C. McDowell
 Miss C. McDowell
 Mrs. G. Moore
 Mrs. A. Rempel
 Mrs. W. Romaniw
 Mrs. G. Shepherd
 Mrs. W. Underhill
 Mrs. A. Wheatley

1982

Mrs. H. Anderson
 Mrs. W. Baldwin
 Mrs. C. Cowan
 Miss M. Craven
 Mrs. C. Garnham
 Mrs. L. Garnham
 Miss E. Goldthorp
 Mrs. R. Goldthorp
 Mrs. R. Hall
 Mrs. G. Hart, auditor
 Mrs. C. Kennedy
 Mrs. M. Luce
 Miss C. Marshall
 Miss C. McDowell
 Mrs. C. McDowell
 Mrs. W. Romaniw
 Mrs. W. Underhill

1987

Mrs. H. Anderson
Mrs. H. Baldwin
Mrs. S. Cowan
Miss M. Craven
Mrs. L. Garnham
Miss E. Goldthorp
Mrs. R. Hall
Mrs. C. Kennedy
Miss C. McDowell
Mrs. W. Underhill

M R S . H A N S A N D E R S O N



Mrs. Irene Anderson (nee Irene Foreman) held the following offices in the Institute.

President in 1961, 1962, 1963

Secretary in 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968.

Irene married Mr. Hans Anderson and they had six children : Charles Edward, Linda Bernice, Nancy Marie, Bonnie Jean, Robert Norman and Jenny Patricia.

MRS . W I L L I A M B A L D W I N



Mrs. William Baldwin (nee Donna Franklin) held the following offices in the Eden Women's Institute:

Representative to Elgin County Pioneer Museum

Convener of Home Economics and Health

Vice President

President 1971,-1972, 1972-1973, 1977-78, 1978-79

District Director

Tweedsmuir History Curator

District Convener of Citizenship and World Affairs

Donna was a Registered Nurse and for a number of years worked in the local hospital at Tillsonburg.

Donna married Mr. William Baldwin of Eden and they farmed in the village. They had *Three* children: DONALD, CHERYL, BRENT

M R S . R O S S C A R S O N

Mrs. Ross Carson held the following office in Eden W.I.:

Secretary 1954-5

Secretary 1955-6

Mrs. Elizabeth Carson is a Registered Nurse working at Tillsonburg Hospital for a number of years. She married Ross Carson of Eden area and they farmed in Concession 9, Bayham before moving to the village and beginning the Trailer Park. They have four children, three boys and one girl; Owen, Preston, Archie and Kathleen.

MRS. CHARLES COWAN

President of Eden branch of the Women's Institute 1980 - 1986