

TWEED SMITH
HISTORY



IONA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY

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Our cover is hand made of navy blue Morocco leather, designed by our Curator, tooled by a resident in the St. Thomas Ontario Hospital, and lettered in gold by the Associate Curator.

IONA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Date of Inception

June 16, 1909

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Date of Compilation

of this

Tweedsmuir History

1962 to 1968.



Mrs. R. Johnson
Curator



Mrs. L. Healy
Associate Curator

We who have compiled this book wish we could have had the experience gained at the beginning, instead at the finish. We desire to pay tribute to Miss Victoria Munro. She was the gifted convenor of the Historical Research Committee, who was at that time responsible for the Tweedsmuir History. Mrs. Frank Silcox, Mrs. Roy Piper and Mrs. Purcell Willson served on this committee.

The Office of Curator of Tweedsmuir Histories was set up in 1962, and this first Curator appointed at that time. Papers in possession of the former committee were turned over and all are included in this book to the best of our knowledge. We know many precious photographs and some articles are missing. The only explanation would seem to be due to the deaths of all the Munro family, following one another in a short period of time.

A relative of the youngest son's wife from Denver, Colorado, had the job of disposing of the Munro property. She would know little of the Canadian Women's Institute. There is no reason to believe that she was not most conscientious, but the much burning of materials disposable in that way, is known. This is the only explanation we have.

Those persons who read what we have compiled and/or written, will note the names of those who have assisted or provided materials. The former presidents of the Iona Women's Institute, Mrs. Herbert Gould and others have been most co-operative, and the Institute members most patient.

It is our hope that all the early settlers and or their decendents will be recognized in later recordings. Names that come to mind are Whalls, Robbins, Morris's, Mrs. Robert Jones and Mrs. E.E. Thomas, daughters of the Herbert Gould's, could add an interesting page. Later residents, who are now integrated in the community, hopefully will assist a future Curator, that their names will not be forgotten in years ahead.

The Iona Branch of the Women's Institute of Ontario was organized June 16, 1909, twelve years after the Women's Institute of Ontario was founded at Stoney Creek; making it the second oldest in West Elgin District. Dr. Anna Backus, of the Woodstock District, came with her coach and pair to officiate in the organization. She was assisted by Mrs. E.V. Docker, then District President, and Miss Minnie Gow, District Secretary.

Twelve ladies joined, thus becoming the Charter Members. The first president was Mrs. Duncan Brown, the secretary-treasurer Miss Tena McAlpine. The remaining ten members were as follows: Miss Flossie Campbell, Mrs. Frank Henderson, Mrs. John Harris, Miss Blanche Smith, Mrs. John Mitchell, Miss Annie Smith, Miss Mary Jane Pollard, Miss Edna Lumley, Mrs. William Pearce and Mrs. Joseph Rycroft. Miss Lydia Pollard was also present, but did not join until the following meeting. Miss Lumley said it was because she did not have the quarter, and often teased her about it through the years.

This meeting was held in the Disciple Baptist Church in the village of Iona, which was built in 1862, and had the distinction of being the first building of public worship in the immediate area. It was closed to services in 1908, and in 1913 became the community Hall. It stands today as a monument to its builders Rufus and David Lumley. In 1925 the Women's Institute helped financially to remodel it, and by the forty-fifth year of the Institute, the building was covered with insul brick, a kitchen had been added, and a permanent booth built on the front grounds. This booth was removed in 1967, for want of use.

For a number of years the Institute had representation on the Hall Board of Trustees, but in 1966 the Hall's affairs have been managed by a committee of four trustees from the membership.

In 1956 one half of the building was reroofed at a cost of \$200. In 1957 a new ceiling for \$348, and in 1959 the complete interior was decorated by Mr. Robert Page at \$500. During the past ten years new chairs, tables made by the men of the village, dishes and stainless cutlery, two gas furnaces for \$900 and a circle driveway, have been some of the improvements undertaken by the women of the Iona branch. Some years ago, a new hardwood floor had been installed.

Many and varied means were used to raise moneys for the above expenses: Teas, quiltings, concerts, card parties, plays, dances, garden parties, and more recently regular card parties, turkey suppers, and the catering to banquets and weddings.

In the early years membership was large, for it included the area north of Iona Station to the Lake Road in the south, with an average attendance of fifty. In 1928, Iona Station organized, thus lessening our area and membership.

The Iona Branch of the Women's Institute had the honor of having Mrs. Luke H. Brown serve as District President in 1919-20. She also was the first member to be presented with a Life Membership, certificate and pin in 1953. Miss Victoria Munro, secretary-treasurer for seven years was made Life Member in 1957.

The twenty-fifth anniversary was celebrated at the home of the first president, Mrs. Duncan Brown. Ninety-five members and guests were present. The first secretary was also present as well as four other charter members. Mrs. E.V. Docker, who assisted at the organization, read an article she wrote: "History of Institutes" which is preserved by the District Institute. Those present who had held office included: Mrs. Duncan Brown, Mrs. P. Schlieuhauf, Mrs. Edwin Carswell, Mrs. Jay Lumley, Mrs. Duncan Campbell, Mrs. John Carswell, Mrs. F.H. Silcox, Mrs. Lloyd Smith and Mrs. H. Gould. Four of the past presidents had departed: Mrs. Dama Lumley, Mrs. J. Mitchell, Mrs. Jean Silcox, and Mrs. Dan McAlpine. Congratulations among others were received from Miss Powell, of the Institute Department, Parliament Buildings, Toronto. Visitors who brought greetings were: Mrs. E.V. Docker, Mrs. P. McPherson, Mrs. C.W. Sinclair, Mrs. W. Pearce, Mrs. D. Patterson, Miss S. Stewart, Mrs. D. Carswell, Miss L. Carswell and Mrs. H. Best.

The forty-fifth anniversary was held in June of 1954. Mrs. F.H. Silcox was president and Mrs. J. Lumley secretary-treasurer. Special speaker was Mrs. C.W. Sinclair, daughter of the first president, Mrs. Duncan Brown.

In 1959 the fiftieth anniversary was observed. Doctor Monteith of Shedden and Mrs. C.W. Sinclair of Aylmer were guest speakers. Mrs. Glen Brown and Mrs. J. Lumley were president and secretary respectively.



Past Presidents of the Iona Women's Institute celebrating the 45 Anniversary, left to right: Mrs. G. Knight, Mrs. W. Pearce, Mrs. R. Piper, Mrs. G. Brown, Mrs. H. Gould, Mrs. A. Dingman, Mrs. L. Smith and Mrs. J. Lumley. (1954)



The 50th Anniversary celebration with some of the past presidents: Mrs. J. Lumley, Secretary Treasurer, Mrs. Tena McPherson, charter member, Mrs. F.H. Silcox, charter member, Mrs. Mary McIntyre, charter member, Mrs. Glen Brown, president. (1959)

During the World Wars I and II, many contributions were made through the Red Cross Society. The Iona Branch of the Women's Institutes of Ontario earned the distinction of sending the largest consignment of home knitted socks to the pooling station - Hyman Hall, in London - at one time.

During the past few years, donations have been made to the Baby Clinic at Shedden, the Bobier Home at Dutton, the Elgin Manor near St. Thomas, the McDonald 75th Anniversary at Guelph, the Daffodil Society for cancer patients, UNESCO, CNIB, the St. Thomas Elgin County Pioneer Museum, and other needy organizations. Several Korean Children have been sponsored over the years.

The following are those who served as Presidents and Secretary-Treasurers during the past fifty-eight years in the above order: 1909, Mrs. Duncan Brown, Miss Tena McAlpine; 1910, Mrs. Duncan Brown, Miss Lydia B. Pollard; 1911, Mrs. Moses Lumley, Miss Lydia B. Pollard; 1912, Mrs. Jean Silcox, Miss Edna Lumley; 1913, Mrs. L. H. Brown, Miss Vesta Lumley; 1914, Miss Janet Pollard, Miss Margaret Graham; 1915, Mrs. John Mitchell, Miss Margaret Graham; 1916, Mrs. John Mitchell, Mrs. William Patterson; 1917, Mrs. L.H. Brown, Mrs. William Patterson; 1918, Mrs. D.A. McAlpine, Miss Catherine McCallum (11 months), Miss Lydia B. Pollard; 1919, Mrs. L.H. Brown, Mrs. Clara Elliott; 1920, Mrs. L.H. Brown, Mrs. Clara Elliott; 1921, Mrs. Ed. Carswell, Mrs. Clara Elliott; 1921, Mrs. Ed. Carswell, Miss Margaret Brown; 1923 Miss Lydia B. Pollard, Mrs. D.A. McAlpine; 1924, Miss Lydia B. Pollard, Mrs. William Patterson; 1925, Mrs. Mabel Silcox, Mrs. William Patterson; 1926, Mrs. Jay Lumley, Mrs. William Patterson; 1927, Mrs. Jay Lumley, Miss Flossie Campbell; 1928, Mrs. Elmer Warner, Miss Flossie Campbell; 1929, Mrs. A.D. Campbell, Miss Kate McLaughlin; 1930, Mrs. Herbert Gould, Miss Kate McLaughlin; 1931, Mrs. Herbert Gould, Miss Victoria Munro; 1932, Mrs. J.A. Carswell, Miss Victoria Munro; 1933, 1934, Mrs. George Knight, Miss Victoria Munro; 1935, Mrs. J.D. Graham, Miss Victoria Munro; 1936, 1937, Mrs. William R. Pollard, Miss Victoria Munro; 1938, Mrs. William R. Pollard, Mrs. Charles Hyde; 1939, 1940, Mrs. H. Gould, Mrs. C. Hyde;

Iona District People Enjoy Garden Party Aid Red Cross

Record Crowd Attends Successful Benefit; Clever Talent 1943 Entertain People; St. Thomas Kiwanians Assist

IONA, Aug. 21 (Staff).—The good folk of this old and respected community think highly of the Canadian Red Cross and the service it is performing in the war. . . . They showed their goodwill toward the Red Cross and the women and men who work so faithfully and energetically in support of the organization by turning out in large numbers for the concert and dance held at the community hall, Friday evening. It was a grand success, right until the last number was danced around three o'clock Saturday morning. The only disappointment was that W. G. (Tommy) Thompson, the new legislative representative for East Kent and West Elgin, was unable to attend and act as chairman. He accepted the invitation but that was before he knew he was going to be appointed to Premier George Drew's cabinet as minister of lands and forests. In the emergency, L. B. (Pete) Birdsall of St. Thomas was called upon to take over. He attended with two other co-operative members of the St. Thomas Kiwanis Club—W. J. (Bill) Stewart and Henry Allen. They brought along a Kiwanis Carnival concession and operated on the grounds all evening to help swell the proceeds for the Southwold Red Cross. It was a neighborly act on their part.

The benefit was organized and conducted by the ladies of the Iona Women's Institute under the direction of Mrs. Mae Lumley, president, and Mrs. Carswell, the vice-president. The members as a whole rendered valued aid, and many of the menfolk gave assistance in various ways.

The attendance was far in excess of the 1942 edition of the garden party and the net proceeds were correspondingly increased. Patronage of the refreshment stand was so brisk that the ladies sold out virtually everything but a few crumbs.

Many talented entertainers of the district contributed their services to the long and varied program, M. G. (Garney) Graham assisting in the enlistment of the talent. From St. Thomas came Dr. Ellar McKellar and his orchestra, to enliven the program with sprightly music and to remain for the dance, play-

ing for those who like to trip the light fantastic until 2.30 Saturday morning. The other entertainers were Mrs. Russell Kerr, who delighted with two vocal numbers, with piano accompaniment by Miss Kerr; the Patterson Sisters of Cowal, daughters of ex-Warden Clarence Patterson, in colorful song and dance numbers with their mother as accompanist; Mac McAlpine, popular singer of Scottish songs from Glencoe, who obliged with four numbers and was accompanied on the piano by his daughter, Miss Doris McAlpine; Glen Thornicroft, piano, and Phil McDonald, saxophone, two personable young men from Glencoe who really can "swing it" and who remained to add their musical notes to the dance band ensemble; Ald. Vine, drummer with the McKellar orchestra; Garney Graham, in tap dancing specialties; and a group of boys and girls of School Section No. 6, Dunwich (Iona Station school), in smart sailors' uniform, who presented an attractive drill number to music. It was an enjoyable program—every item.

Drawing for the prizes provided fun, especially the drawing for the mystery prize which turned out to be a very small, very white and very stubborn goat, with one horn painted a bright red and the other a bright green, which was produced from a hidden corner by Garney Graham. The winner was Miss Lenore McAlpine, a rather embarrassed young lady. Incidentally, the little goat was named "Beans," in tribute to Hon. W. G. Thompson and his chief election topic.

Drawings for the quilt and other prizes was conducted by the chairman with the assistance of Dr. McKellar, Dr. Charlie Lumley and John Gillies. The handsome quilt was won by Mrs. L. Flashman of Talbotville. The second prize, crocheted pillow case, went to Mrs. Lulu Lodge; third prize, cream and sugar set, to D. E. Munro, Toronto, and fourth prize, first aid set, to Lois Clay. Sale of the tickets on the quilt and prizes realized \$51.30.

The winners of the prizes for leading in ticket sales were as follows: First, Mrs. H. Milligan; second, Laverne Keillor; third, Mrs. Link.

From the Journal

1941, Mrs. Ray Lumley, Mrs. Charles Hyde; 1942, 1943, Mrs. Ray Lumley, Mrs. Herbert Gould; 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, Mrs. Glen Brown, Mrs. Purcell Willson; 1948, Mrs. D. McPhail, Mrs. Purcell Willson; 1949, Mrs. Archie J. Dingman, Mrs. Purcell Willson; 1950, 1951, Mrs. Archie J. Dingman, Mrs. Herbert Gould; 1952, 1953, Mrs. Roy Piper, Mrs. Herbert Gould; 1954, Mrs. F.H. Silcox, Mrs. Herbert Gould; 1955, Mrs. F.H. Silcox, Mrs. Jay Lumley; 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, Mrs. Glen Brown, Mrs. Jay Lumley; 1960, Mrs. Herbert Gould, Mrs. Jay Lumley; 1961, Mrs. Purcell Willson, Mrs. Ray Johnson; 1962, Mrs. Jay Lumley, Mrs. Jack McAlpine; 1963, Mrs. Ray Johnson, Mrs. Jack McAlpine; 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, Mrs. Elisha Lazenby, Mrs. Jack McAlpine.

Many of the twenty-seven presidents and twenty secretary-treasurers were overly generous with their time and talents, as noted above, by the number of times the offices were held by these women who served their organization along with the other members, who, no doubt, were just as active.



"Though styles change,
Our aim is the same."

Barbara Ryland and Mrs. B.
Willson. Year '43.



A "June Tea" -

Left to right: Mrs. R. Johnson,
Mrs. Walker, Dutton, signing the
register; Mrs. D. Forsythe, Dutton,
Mrs. E. Lazenby, and Mrs. Nellie
Carrol at the register.

IONA, Jan. 18.—The first meeting of the Iona W.I. for the new year was held in the Iona Community Hall. Twenty-five dollars a year for three years was voted for the St. Thomas Memorial Hospital building fund. The canvass for funds for the Bobler Nursing Home was not completed on account of bad condition of roads in recent rainy weather.

Mrs. F. H. Silcox, retiring quilt convener, turned in \$27 for quilting six quilts, the most outstanding being a stamped applique quilt done for Mrs. Allan Keith, of St. Thomas. Mrs. R. Lumley, who will act as convener until the end of the W.I. year, reported several quilts ready now. The members quilted during the afternoon.

Miss V. Munro, historical research convener, introduced the guest speaker, Mrs. A. E. Willson, of Iona. Mrs. Willson, who was formerly Miss Alice Pearce, delighted her audience with incidents of life in the Iona of her girlhood. She then sketched the life of Col.

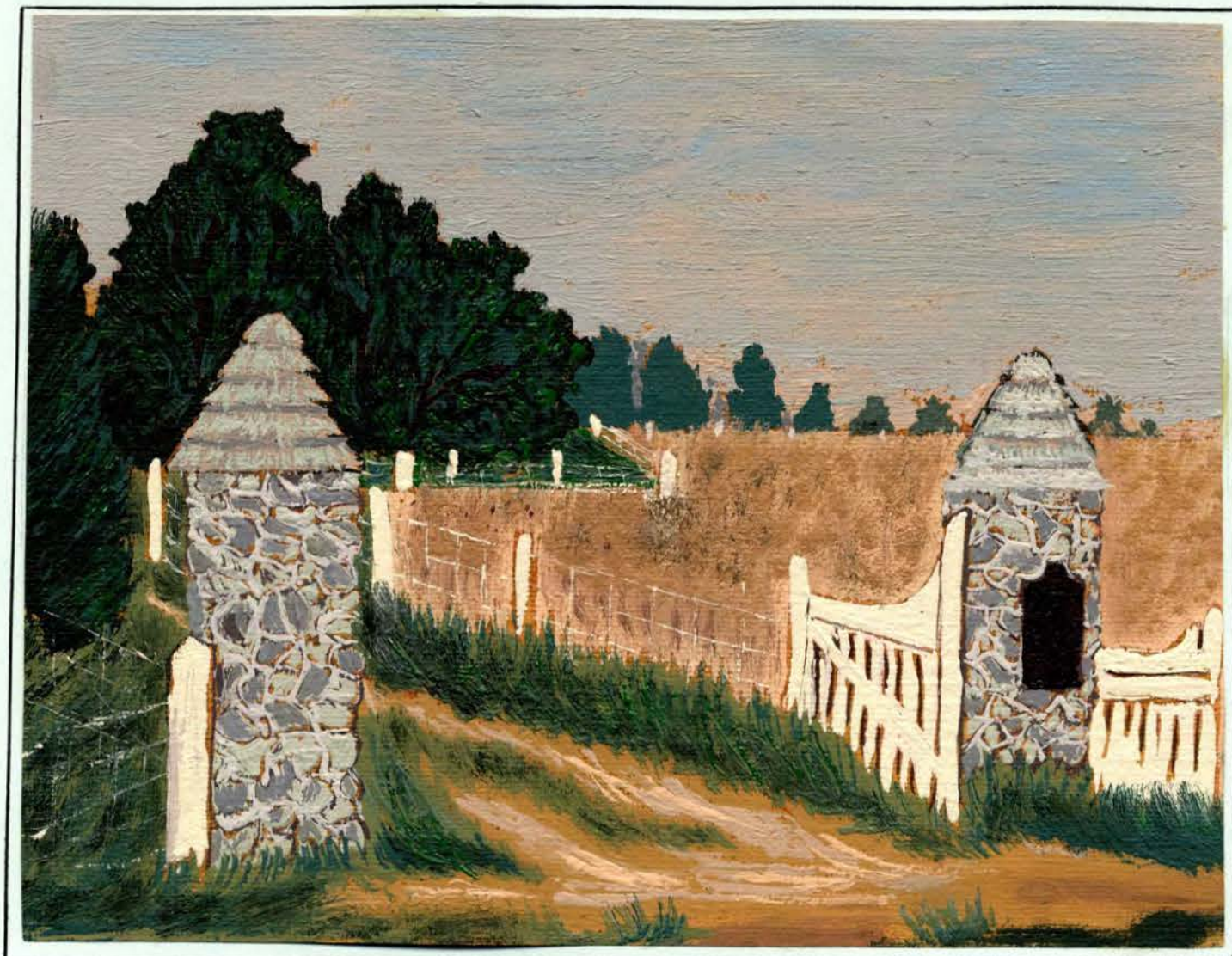
Mahlon Burwell, surveyor, who built his home at Burwell's Corners. Mrs. Willson read parts of his will. This was a remarkable document and one statement worth comment was his explanation of the disposition of certain of his properties. He said he had worked hard for all that he possessed and had found that men do not cherish that which is just given them as they do those things which they earn by their own labors.

Members who had brought historical possessions displayed them and gave their histories. Among these were some shoes for oxen, wooden forms for making shoes, brass candlesticks and an unusual silver butter dish.

The February meeting will take the form of a Valentine tea, with a home-made valentine contest. The topic will be on publicity, convened by Mrs. Eva Fletcher. Tea was served by Mrs. F. H. Silcox, assisted by Mrs. B. Hamilton, Mrs. R. Fletcher and Mrs. R. Lumley.



Past Presidents Iona Women's
Institute: left to right: Mrs. E.
Lazenby, Mrs. P. Willson, Mrs. A.
Dingman, Mrs. R. Piper, Mrs. Edna
Campbell, Mrs. Jay Lumley, Mrs. L.
Smith, Mrs. H. Gould, Mrs. G.
Knight and Mrs. R. Johnson.



Painting by Patricia Ryland

Entrance to the Southwold
Indian Earthworks.

