



Left - Mrs. Roy McGregor retired as curator April 4, 1967  
Centre- Mrs. W. J. Free Curator successor April 4, 1967  
Right-- Mrs. Eugene SweetCurators Typist retired Aug. 1967

who is succeeded by Mrs. W. J. Free and Mrs. Hiram Jenken  
*# W. H. Fall, Typist, Toledo*

### The Old Tea Set

Once we thought it out of date, and it was put away  
The gay old-fashioned tea set that belonged to Auntie May.  
Now it is the prized possession of the family.  
In these days when antique china is a luxury.  
Shapely, dainty, beautiful in color and in line,  
Sprigs of blossoms tied with ribbon make the bright design.  
Delicate and featherlight. Such lovely things to hold.  
Rosy pink and thrush-egg blue with rims of green and gold.  
Cups and plates and saucers, jug and basin. All the set  
We are proud to have it in our china cabinet.  
And when good friends come to tea our treasure we display  
Silently expressing thanks to dear old Auntie May.

Names of Tweedsmuir History Committee 1969-1970

- Mrs. W. J. Free (Curator )
- Mrs. Ralph Stover
- Mrs. Wm. H. Free, Jr.
- Mrs. Hiram Jenken, Jr.
- Mrs. Ernest Jenkins

These ladies are holding their first Birthday Tweedsmuir Tea Nov. 19th, 1969 at the residence of Mrs. Ralph Stover with the "Glen" W. I. ladies Invited as guests.

In April 1970 Mrs. Ralph Stover retired and Mrs. Karl Thomson took her place.

The second Tweedsmuir History Committee Tea Sept. 23, 1970 Held at the residence of Mrs. W. J. Free, Curator with Mrs. Hiram Jenken, Typist being present at 8:00 P. M. Men as well as ladies may attend as no one need be necessarily a Women's Institute Branch member. At the close Lunch will be served by the Hostess and her committee.

- 1970-71 Curator- Mrs. W.J. Free, (Sr.)  
 Committee- Mrs. Hiram Jenken (Typist)  
               Mrs. W. H. Free, (Jr.)  
               Mrs. Ernest Jenkins  
               Mrs. Karl Thomson
- 1971-72- Curator- Mrs. W.J. Free (Sr.)  
 Committee- Mrs. W.H. Free (Jr.)(Typist)  
               Mrs. Ernest Jenkins  
               Mrs. Karl Thomson  
               Mrs. Hiram Jenken (Typist)
- 1972-73- Curator- Mrs. W.J. Free, (Sr.)  
 Committee- Mrs. Ernest Jenkins  
               Mrs. Karl Thomson  
               Mrs. Hiram Jenken  
               Mrs. W.H. Free (Jr.) (typist)

### Tweedsmuir History Workers

The president on behalf of all the members of the branch made a speech of appreciation to Mrs. Eugene Sweet, and Mrs. Roy McGregor for their 16 yrs. of hard work on the Tweedsmuir committee. Each was presented with a W. I. cup and saucer. May 2, 1968.

Mrs. W. Free Sr. took over as the new curator from them.



Mrs. Roy McGregor  
Mrs. Eugene Sweet



Mrs. Roy McGregor, Mrs. E. Sweet  
Mrs. Charles Phillips E. E. Pres.

Aug 18/70



Curators Meeting Aug. 18, 1970

Over 30 women from the W. I. of London Area met at the Elgin Pioneer Museum yesterday to work on their project of compiling pictures and history of Tweedsmuir village. Front row, from left to right, Mrs. C. M. Williams, R. R. 8, St. Thomas, chairman of the London Area W. I. Tweedsmuir Book Committee; Mrs. R. C. Walker, St. George, Federated W. I. of Ontario curator of Tweedsmuir histories; back row, Miss Mildred Richardson, Kerwood, curator of W. Middlesex districts, and Mrs. Lorne Daniel, R. R. 1 Mount Elgin, provincial board director of the W. I.

TWEEDSMUIR HISTORIES

In 1933, Miss E. Applebe, Provincial Convener while reporting Historical Research and Current Events urged the branches to collect the history of farms, buildings and places of Interest.

During the term when Lord Tweedsmuir was Governor General of Canada, Lady Tweedsmuir who was<sup>a</sup> devoted Institute Member in England, had a great interest in the Women's Institutes of Canada. At Athen's, Leeds Co. Institute meeting Lady Tweedsmuir stressed the need for preserving the interesting history of our Canadian people, the places, customs and activities of our developing land in 1936.

This proposition to preserve local history was sent to the Provincial Board of the F.W.I. of Ontario. In 1940, with Mrs. Reesor, Provincial Convener preposed in her report that branches begin Village History Books.

In 1945, a list of suggestions for Compiling Tweedsmuir Histories was published in Home and Country giving types of material and items to be covered as well as an Order of contents. Thus, the Tweedsmuir Histories launched. The word Village was later dropped from the title so all branches were free to compile a community history whether Village or not. The main subjects covered in Tweedsmuir Histories are: The Branch Women's Institute, its contribution to the welfare and the development to the community.

(2) General Community history including the Geography and topography of the locale, municipal Government, farming in all its aspects, homes, education, recreation, trade and commerce.

(3) Complete histories of individual farms and families.

(4) Churches and their organizations.

(5) Schools and libraries.

(6) Industries past and present.

(7) War records of the community, etc.

In 1957 at the annual meeting of the Provincial Board of the F.W.I. of Ontario, Mrs. R.C. Walker of St. George, Ontario was appointed the first Provincial Curator.

In 1962, a By-law was passed making the office of Curator official in the Women's Institute Branches, Districts and areas throughout Ontario.

In 1972, in the Prov. there were approx. 1300 Tweedsmuir Histories. In 1947, Lady Tweedsmuir donated 3 silver cups as prizes for the national competitions in Tweedsmuir Histories, a cultural project and for a Handicraft. At each triennial conference the F.W.I. of Can. present a replica of the Tweedsmuir cup to the branches which were winners in the previous triennial. In the six times, Ont. has entered in these national competitions of Tweedsmuir Histories and the cup has come to Ont. 3 times.

Lady Tweedsmuir Dies in England.

Lady Tweedsmuir, widow of Lord Tweedsmuir, late Canadian Governor-general from 1935-40. has died at her Oxfordshire home at 94. A devoted institute member in England. Lady Tweedsmuir took great interest in the Women's Institutes of Canada. She stressed at great length the need for preserving the history and development of Canada - the land, the people, their customs and activities. When a project to preserve local histories was launched in 1947, Lady Tweedsmuir donated three silver cups as a prize for National Competition in Community History, a Cultural Project and a Handicraft. At each triennial conference F W I C presents a replica of the Tweedsmuir cup to the winning branches.

Both Lord Tweedsmuir, who wrote thrillers un the pen-name John Buchan, and Lady Tweedsmuir were accomplished writers. Among her better known works were, " A Study of Wellington After Waterloo" and a biography of novelist Louisa May Alcott. Copies of two books "John Buchan by his Wife and Friends" and a collection of essays "Winter Bouquet" were presented to the AC Adelaide Hoodless Homestead in 1963. The couple had three sons and a daughter. Died 1977.



Mrs. R.C. Walker



1971-72

House Logs- Mrs. R.C. Walker, Provincial Curator, suggests a durable note book or a smooth surfaced board fastened by a fine chain to a stairway or some part of the house where it can remain, Its record- name of house builder-

2. When built
3. Original Owner
4. Followed by succeeding tenants
5. Any changes to the building.

## HOUSE LOGS

These are Permanent Histories that are kept in the HOME!

The log begins with the first house on the property in word and picture, showing views, telling location, etc; then all the changes in the buildings and families through the years.

Some of the items covered would include:

1. Statement inside cover "That this log remains in the house, and is to be filled in by future families."
2. Site: lot, concession, township and county.
3. Designer or architect.
4. Date of building
5. Materials -- stone, brick, lumber etc. (Any special design or where from-- primeval forest, local stone, locally made brick, etc.)
6. Sketch of original floor plan.
7. Water system --hydro and telephone installation etc.
8. Original family -- successive as time passes.
9. Changes in building --showing later floor plans.
10. Sketch of drainage system; water supply system; wiring, etc.
11. Some farm statistics if wished.

Any type of book may be used. It should be chained to something permanent in the house.

If the house is razed--for a new road, etc. --then the log should be placed in the local library.



Hester M. Walker was born near Oak River, Manitoba, daughter of Roy and Mary Hammill. She received her education in Saskatchewan, Man., Ont. and Wisconsin, graduating with a diploma in Accounting and Office Management becoming a Medical Secretary. She married Robert C. Walker, a farmer. They have a son, James and a daughter, Margaret.

Mrs. Walker joined the Glenmorris W.I., Brant North District in 1936. and has held all major Offices. Since 1949 she has been in charge of the Glenmorris Tweedsmuir History and this book won the National Competition in 1953.

At District level she has been Secretary-Treasurer as well Curator and at present- Vice-President of Brant North District. She holds Branch and District Life Memberships. Hamilton Area claimed her as convener of Historical Research and Current Events and has served in the same capacity for the F.W.I. of Ontario. She has been Provincial Curator since 1957, and has conducted Tweedsmuir History Workshops throughout the Province for the Department of Agriculture and Food for many years.

Mrs. Walker compiled the History of St. Pauls United Church, Paris and the History of Paris Agriculture Society of which she is pastPres. of the Women's Division. In 1967 this Society awarded her the Agriculture Award of Merit.

She is a 4-H Homemaking Club leader; Church organist and choir leader Past Matron of Meeting Waters Chapter, O.E.S., Paris and a past Director of the Ontario Genealogical Society.

In 1967, Mrs Walker was awarded a Certificate of Commendation by the Awards Committee of the American Association for State Local History. Also, in the same year, 1967 the Farmer's Guide poll selected her as Ontario's "Women of the Year".

#### The Motto- FOR HOME AND COUNTRY

At the first Women's Institute Convention held in 1902, a request for a Motto and Badge resulted in the appointment of a committee to receive suggestions and make suitable selections.

From the entries received, the Motto, For Home and Country was chosen by Miss Laura Rose and also, the idea of the Badge was provided by her. This, Badge still remains the official Badge for the Women's Institutes of Ontario.



*May 15 '73*

ELECTED TO OFFICE -

(May 18th, 1973)

The election of officers for the 1973-74 terms for Elgin East Women's Institutes took place at the 61st district annual meeting held in Union United Church, South Yarmouth W.I. was the hostess group. Taking office are Mrs. Harold Davies, public relations officer.

Mostly Honor  
Honorarium,  
I've come to see,  
Is a very big word  
For a very small fee.

-Richard Armour

CONVENTIONS

At first W.I. were first organized as ridings, then Districts and as they became numerous Branches.

In 1900, the Superintendent of Farmers Institutes asked for the co-operation of the Women's Institutes. They hoped for 1 dozen Women's Institutes, but instead were 31.

1904- there were 149 Branches in 58 Districts.

1907- Ten years after 400 branches in 84 districts, attendants 71,154.

December, 1901- the Executive Committee of the Experimental union of the Ontario Agriculture College arranged a special meeting for the ladies at their annual meeting for men in Guelph. From 24 of the 39 organized W.I's women attended the morning session while 100 came for the afternoon. This was their first convention. It proved so successfully that the delegates voted to continue these meetings yearly.

1902- the W.I's received Legislative recognition in the Ontario Agriculture Ammendment Act.

1903- Convention sessions held in New McDonald Institute.

1904- Convention was increased to 2 days with Geo. A. Putman, newly appointed Superintendent of the W.I's, succeeding Dr. Creelman. At this meeting blue and gold were chosen as the Ontario W.I's colours and an annual 3.00 grant to W.I's branches by the Department of Agriculture. Mrs. Hoodless was one of the several special speakers.

1905- Convention- Miss Laura Rose stated "that the success of the W.I. depends on the ability and enthusiasm of the officers. They should be chosen with great care in view to their fitness for office rather than their social popularity.

1905-1909- Conventions were held in Massey Hall O.A.C. Guelph with the Ontario Minister of Agriculture or his deputy as presiding Officer, but the W.I. members chairing the sessions.

1909- Conventions found the place taxed to capacity. Then in 1910- the 9th annual convention was held in Convocation Hall, Toronto, Ontario for November and extended to 3 days. A committee was appointed to formulate the Programme of educational short courses. Also, each Branch was asked for 2.00 for an oil portrait of Mrs. Hoodless to be hung in the MacDonald Institute with the Inscription that she was the founder of Canada Women's Institutes (Presented October 3rd., 1912)

1909-1919- Conventions centered on Rural schools.

The standpoint of health, sanitation and family living.

1914- Conventions continued in Toronto until 1914 for all of Ontario, when the Women's Institute membership increased to 29,000, so it was decided to divide the Province into three convention areas with sessions held at Toronto, London and Ottawa. These Conventions in Ottawa continued until 1969 when they were invited to other places and thus, making it more convenient for those in far away places and in London, Ontario until 1964 when the 50th Anniversary was held in St. Thomas, Ontario.



May, 14 1980 68th District Annual Aylmer Baptist church



Mrs. Ella Mae (Smith )  
Married Orrie Ostrander.  
1979-1980 President.



Women's Institute Executive 1975-76

63rd. District annual Lakeview, Baptist Church. From left. Mrs. Joe. Bechard, Past President and Secretary-treasurer. Sec. Vic. Mrs. Jack Widner, Pres. Miss Catharine McDowell, and 1st. V. Mrs. Robert Ferguson. May, 19, 1975



The Elm tree is on the farm of Bev. Finch R. R. 1. Belmont, and his sister's Audreys big black dog, Barney that was later killed on 74 Highway.



W. I. Anniversary dinner Nov. 16, 1977

The Elgin County rally committee of the Womens Institute, held a dinner Wed. at Knox Presbyterian Church to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the group. Pictured here from left to right are, Mrs. I. L. MacAdam, rally president. Mrs. Victor Beachin, guest speaker, and curator of the Erland Lee Home in Stoney Creek, and Mrs. Keith Hiepleh, provincial board director from Springfield.  
Nov. 16, 1977.



Display of Bells at the Institute's  
Rally in Grace United Church,  
St. Thomas, Ontario. Oct. 4, 1973.





MARK 50TH ANNIVERSARY — To celebrate their fiftieth anniversary members of South Yarmouth Women's Institute invited all their many friends and members of neighboring Institutes and other organizations to a tea held at the Institute Hall in Union, on Wednesday afternoon. The hall was attractively decorated with colorful spring flowers and in the background can be seen the beautifully-arranged tea table. Left to right are Mrs. Keith Hiepleh, president of East Elgin District WI, and Mrs. Dan McPhill, president of the South Yarmouth WI as they chat and enjoy a cup of tea at one of the individual tables. (T.-J. Photo).

1970