



Leola Sadler, left, Grace Manning and Madeleine Jenkins of Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute prepare a luncheon buffet table for a celebration at Mapleton Church of

Christ of the 100th anniversary of the founding of WIs. Other Women's Institutes from across East Elgin joined the party, which was held by Kingsmill-Mapleton.

Women Institutes celebrate

by Madeleine Jenkins

Elgin East District held a 100th anniversary celebration of the founding of Women's Institute at the Mapleton Church of Christ Disciples on February 19.

We followed the celebration with Kingsmill-Mapleton branch celebrating 90 years of community service in the area.

There were 75 women in the decorated fellowship hall, with a few guests from West Elgin.

The tables were covered with royal blue tablecloths and yellow flowers in bud vases, as well as table favours for each person.

The anniversary cake with the Institute crest was placed on a table covered with an antique cloth of that time, along with two violets on each side.

Mrs. Aletha Bradt led in a sing-song with Mrs. Margaret McNeil as pianist.

Mrs. Bradt favoured us with a couple of solos.

Mrs. Janet Hiepleh, Tweedsmuir curator, gave a brief history of our 90 years in our community.

Mrs. Geraldine Jenken, president, and Nell Bouthoorn, oldest active member, cut the cake and we ended the day with cake and ice cream.

February 19, 1997



Dot Sale/ THE SIGNPOST
 Kingsmill-Mapleton W.I. member Nell Bouthoorn and president Geraldine Jenkin prepare to cut the 90th anniversary cake.

*J.H.
 m.g.j.
 1998*

90th ANNIVERSARY OF KINGSMILL-MAPLETON WOMEN'S INSTITUTEMAPLETON CHURCH OF CHRIST DISCIPLESWednesday, February 19, 1997, 3:00 p.m.

Welcome to the 90th Anniversary of Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute. It was 90 years ago when women from this vicinity gathered at the home of Mr. & Mrs. John Brodie, just south of Mapleton, February 9, 1907, to formally organize a branch of the Women's Institute. The name chosen for this 3rd branch in Elgin East District was Mapleton. Earlier Aylmer had organized in 1902, followed by Springfield in 1904.

The idea of an educational organization for personal growth, self-improvement, leadership development and community action soon attracted the attention of more rural women. By 1912 the branch name was changed to Kingsmill-Mapleton, to more correctly identify the area now served.

Our worthy motto "For Home and Country" was soon put to the test. It inspired our members to do their part during the 1914-1918 World War. Money was raised for the war effort by holding food sales, concerts, garden parties and gratefully accepting donations of money. Parcels were mailed regularly to the boys who had gone overseas. They were pleased to find knitted socks and sweaters, candy and cigarettes from the Women's Institute members back home. In addition to remembering the boys who served overseas, a large project was underway in Mr. Brodie's butter-room. It was here that the Women's Institute members preserved surplus fruit, vegetables and chicken. In total 6,313 cans of preserved food was donated for overseas distribution. Truly a remarkable effort!

A time of peace and adjustment followed the war years. The first Sunday Outdoor Service was held in 1930 and continued until 1950. The year 1930 is also remembered for a special event that occurred in October. A daughter was born to Kingsmill-Mapleton and she was given the name North Yarmouth. What a wonderful child proved to be! During this same period and continuing for several years, leaders were busy teaching the young girls in The Girls Homemaking Clubs. Some of the projects included: "Being Well Dressed and Groomed", Cotton Accessories for the Club Girls Bedroom" and "Clothes Closets Up-to-Date".



Then history repeated itself..... The world was plunged into the terrible 2nd World War 1939-1945. Once again the members turned their attention to the task of giving support to local men and women who had gone overseas. By war's end, 331 large quilts, 64 crib quilts, 1237 knitted articles and 314 sewing items had been made. They were credited also with making jam, jelly and marmalade. Not all men returned home at war's end. Some had given the supreme sacrifice for our country. These valiant men were remembered by a donation of a wheel chair to the Amasa Wood Memorial in St.Thomas. The wheel chair plaque can now be seen in the Donor Recognition Foyer in St.Thomas Elgin General Hospital. Several of our members attended the Donor Reception, June 19, 1996, along with individuals, families, businesses and community groups that have given generous support for more than a century to our local Elgin hospitals.

29 years after the birth of our daughter North Yarmouth, she in turn gave birth to a lively daughter in March 1959. She was named Yarmouth Glen. This was another proud day for Kingsmill-Mapleton, for now she was a grandmother.

Our members have been generous with their time serving as leaders for many 4-H Clubs, thus enriching the lives of many young people.

- Residents at Elgin Manor and Terrace Lodge have enjoyed a hot cup of tea, coffee or chocolate and a homemade cookie or square served by caring members.

- Displays have regularly been placed in the Women's Institute section at Aylmer Fair. For a few years meals were prepared and served at the Fair, Profits were carefully invested and a number of students in East Elgin benefitted from a yearly bursary.

- Members who are no longer able to attend our monthly meetings due to health problems, enjoy visits at Christmas time and throughout the year.

In addition as Women Institute members we have learned to invest in ourselves - make decisions, weigh values - cultivate a good attitude toward others - learned to adapt and persevere - be good managers - take on responsibilities - not be a fence-sitter but to differ objectively - and be enthusiastic. We know that we can accomplish anything worthwhile by working together with similar principles and objectives in mind. May we as a branch continue to serve our community near and far, and may our light continue to shine around the world. *Janet*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY KINGSMILL-MAPLETON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE! (Prepared by Janet Hiepleh)

June 5, 1997

Kingsmill-Mapleton WI

by Elaine Robinson

On June 5, 1997, we toured Sparta, including a very interesting and informative tour of the Quai Da Vin Estate Winery and the Peter Robson Art Studio.

We then enjoyed a lovely dessert luncheon at Sparta Tea House.

Wednesday, June 25 was the Strawberry Tea held at the Elgin County Pioneer Museum. Grace Manning, Leola Sadler and Madeleine Jenkins were in attendance, giving their assistance on behalf of our chapter.

The 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Women's Institute was held in Hamilton, Ontario the week of June 17 through to June 22.

Janet Hiepleh represented our branch for the whole event, with Madeleine Jenkins attending for the weekend festivities.

Both ladies agreed it was a once in a lifetime event, well organized and a won-

derful chance to meet women from around the world, all belonging to an organization founded in Stoney Creek, Ontario.

Our July meeting will be held aboard the Cruise Boat, the London Princess, in Springbank Park, for a two hour dinner cruise.

Thanks to Geraldine Jenkins for suggesting and arranging this special dinner-cruise. We will be pleased to welcome several special guests on that evening.

During the month of August we are involved in setting up a booth at the Aylmer Fair and, of course, entering a variety of hand-made and homemade items for judging.

We wish everyone a happy and fun-filled summer and remembering to always keep safety first in our work and at play.

Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's
Institute members tour Sparta.

TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY MEETINGTOPIC: QUILTING

Quilting was practiced by the ancient Egyptians, the Chinese and the Persians, and came to Europe with the Crusaders. But in the mid-16th Century, Europeans began to distinguish between art and craft. The thinking of the day, which persisted for centuries, was that anything practical and useful couldn't be considered art. The fact that quilting was a craft done mainly by women did nothing to enhance its stature in a world run mainly by men.

In recent years, though, women have fought for equal recognition in the art world as in other spheres, and have brought with them some of the traditional ways women have expressed themselves. The growing acceptance of women as artists has allowed people to expand the boundaries of quilting as an art form. But maybe at the same time it has inspired greater appreciation for the art in traditional quilting.

As pioneer men constructed homes for their families, women created soft shelters in cloth. Using needle and thread, women illustrated images of their own time and place.

While it is important to progress, it's also important to preserve, keeping alive the old skills and designs that were once one of women's few ways of expressing themselves.

Many of you will recall visiting your grandmother and watching her quilt. Often the quilting frame was in the parlour and sometimes you would be invited to sew a couple of stitches. Many quilters start out with crib quilts, then piece together traditional patterns like Log Cabin and Colonial Lady, meticulously striving for the desired eight to twelve stitches per inch. I am sure you will agree that there is at the present time a great appreciation of the value and beauty in quilting. It is now time for you to view some of the quilts that have been brought here today for you to admire.

Meeting held at the home of Janet Hiepleh
Branch Tweedsmuir History Curator
Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute
November 7, 1997

J. H.

CONTINUATION OF AUTOGRAPH QUILTRefer to Volume 3 Pages 324-327

March 5, 1970: For some time Mrs. Hoover had been thinking about a suitable place for the quilt to be seen by the public. Following a tour of the Elgin County Pioneer Museum with the Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute members, she asked the Museum Curator whether the Museum would be interested in adding an autograph quilt to the Museum's collection. Since the Museum was not in need of another quilt, it remained with Mrs. Hoover. Eventually Mrs. Hoover left the quilt to her daughter, Mrs. Ralph Stover, and she in turn left it to her daughter, Mrs. David Stover.

October 9, 1994: The quilt was returned to the Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute by Mrs. David Stover. The members were asked to decide upon a suitable home for it.

April 18, 1995: The quilt was taken to the Aylmer and District Museum by the Tweedsmuir History Curator, Mrs. Janet Hiepleh, and the Assistant, Mrs. Helen Widner, for consideration of acceptance by the Museum Committee. The Curator was on a leave of absence due to surgery and no action could be taken.

March 4, 1997: The Aylmer and District Museum was contacted again. A meeting was arranged for March 23, 1997, with the Museum Committee.

1997 is the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the first Women's Institute, and the 90th Anniversary of Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute. If the quilt meets the criteria for acceptance of quilts and the Museum Committee gives its approval, the quilt would be donated in this special Anniversary year to the "Museum".

March 23, 1997: Four Women's Institute members (Mrs. Janet Hiepleh, Mrs. Helen Widner, Mrs. Madeleine Jenkins & Mrs. Grace Manning) went to the Aylmer and District Museum to meet with the Museum Committee. Upon arrival the Women's Institute members were informed by the Director that she had forgotten about the meeting. A new date was agreed upon and the Director will attend the next Women's Institute meeting in April.

April 3, 1997: The Aylmer and District Museum Director met with the Women's Institute members. She stated she would recommend the autograph quilt to the Management Committee. g. st.

May 1, 1997: It was agreed by the Women's Institute members that the autograph quilt be donated to the Aylmer and District Museum. Names on each block will be copied and submitted to the Museum Director.

May 9, 1997: This was a very busy day. Grace Manning, Madeleine Jenkins, Leola Sadler and Elaine Robinson arrived at the home of Janet Hiepleh where the quilt was kept for the Women's Institute. Names were transcribed from 30 quilt blocks and later that same day, Janet Hiepleh checked each name for accuracy.

May 10, 1997: The Museum Director was informed that 957 names had been transcribed from the quilt and it would be donated to the Museum when it was convenient for the Museum Director to accept it.

May 18, 1997: The list of transcribed names was taken to the Museum by Janet Hiepleh. The list will be entered into a computer and a copy of the print-out returned for verification.

June 6, 1997: Pat Zimmer, Museum Director, phoned Janet Hiepleh and informed her that a grant for renovations to the 2nd floor storage area of the Museum had been received. It will be some time before the quilt project can proceed.

September 11, 1997: Kingsmill-Mapleton W.I. members agreed to donate \$50.14 to the Museum. The money to be used to purchase an acid free box for the preservation of the quilt.

October 2, 1997: Pat Zimmer reported that the quilt block names were ready for proof-reading.

October 3, 1997: Grace Manning delivered the list of quilt names to Janet Hiepleh.

October 7, 1997: Agnes VanRooijen assisted Janet Hiepleh with the list of typed names submitted by the Museum.

October 8, 1997: Agnes VanRooijen returned to assist Janet Hiepleh finalize the list of names from the 30 blocks. The names were entered on the 70 year old quilt by hand using pen and ink.

October 10, 1997: The Autograph Quilt was officially donated to the Aylmer and District Museum. The Gift Form was signed by Grace Manning, President. A photo was taken on this special occasion by the Aylmer Express photographer that included Pat Zimmer, Grace Manning and Janet Hiepleh. The list of proof-read names and the \$50.14 cheque were given to the Museum Director Pat Zimmer.

g.A.

October 16, 1997: The History of the Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute 70 year old Autograph Quilt was submitted to Janet Hiepleh, Curator, for approval of a suitable write-up by the Museum Director.

October 17, 1997: Grace Manning and Janet Hiepleh returned to the Museum for another photo session with Pat Zimmer, Museum Director. A special event is planned for December 14, 1997, at the Aylmer and District Museum. The Autograph Quilt will form part of a Christmas Display that will be open to the public.

December 14, 1997: Four Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute members, Grace Manning, President, Madeleine Jenkins, Secretary, Janet Hiepleh, Curator and Leola Sadler were present at the unveiling of the Autograph Quilt at the Aylmer & District Museum. A historical pamphlet was prepared by the Museum on the occasion of the Museum's 20th Anniversary, 1977-1997; the 90th Anniversary of Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute, 1907-1997. It is noted that this is the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the 1st Women's Institute in the world, 1897-1997. Happy Birthday! Also the Autograph Quilt is 70 year old, 1927-1997. Indeed, this is a very special Anniversary year.

submitted and typed by:

Janet Hiepleh
 Janet Hiepleh,
 Curator,
 Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute

JH.

AYLMER AND DISTRICT MUSEUM

A DEPARTMENT OF THE TOWN OF AYLMER FAX #765-1446
14 EAST STREET — AYLMER, ONTARIO N5H 1W2 — (519) 773-9723



Attention: Members of the Women's Institute of Kingsmill/Mapleton

Thank you for considering the donation of the your autograph quilt to our Museum. After seeing the quilt, my recommendation to the Management Committee would be for the acceptance of this artifact because of the historic significance of the item.

The preservation cost for the storage of the quilt in an acid free container is \$50.14 (includes tax and shipping costs). This donation towards the preservation of this item would help us, as like many organizations we face budget cutbacks.

Further to our previous conversation, I would like to suggest a small display centering on the donation of the quilt from September 28 to October 12 (Thanksgiving weekend). Along with the quilt from your members, we are proposing a small display on the history of Kingsmill.

If there are any contacts or artifacts that known to you that we may borrow or resources for information that we could use, we invite your help on this subject. The display would be in recognition of your anniversary for your group and we would invite you to participate in the opening ceremonies.

This would be a wonderful way to call attention to Women's History Month, which occurs each October. This is a mandate presented by the Secretary of State on the Status of Women.

Please advise me of your wishes on the above issues within the next month, so that I may prepare a work schedule to allow for the introduction of this new display in this year's schedule.

Submitted by Pat Zimmer, Museum Director, April 3, 1997



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY WITH CHANGING HISTORICAL EXHIBITS &
PRESENTATIONS • VOLUNTEER GIFT SHOPPE • TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

Pat

Wed., November 5, 1997



Pat Zimmer, left, director of Aylmer and District Museum, Grace Manning, president of Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's In-

stitute, and Janet Hiepleh, Tweedsmuir history curator pose with a signature quilt created by the WI. The quilt, started in

Just

-AYLMER EXPRESS—Wed., December 17, 1997



Grace Manning, president, left, Madeleine Jenkins, secretary, Janet Hiepleh, Tweedsmuir history curator and Leola Sadler, all of Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute, ad-

mire an "autograph" quilt made by WI branch members in 1927. It was donated recently to Aylmer and District Museum, where it is now on display.

JA

The 1927 Quilt from the Kingsmill-Mapleton W.I.



*This historical pamphlet was prepared
by the
AYLMER & DISTRICT MUSEUM
on the occasion of our 20th Anniversary,
1977-1997
using the names collected by the ladies
of the
Kingsmill-Mapleton W.I.
who are
celebrating their 90th Anniversary
1907-1997*

W. I. KINGSMILL-MAPLETON 1927 AUTOGRAPHED QUILT

ROW 1	NAMES	ROW 2	NAMES	ROW 3	NAMES
BLOCK 1	32	BLOCK 1	32	BLOCK 1	32
2	32	2	32	2	31
3	32	3	32	3	32
4	32	4	32	4	32
5	32	5	32	5	32
6	32	6	32	6	32

ROW 4	NAMES	ROW 5	NAMES
BLOCK 1	33	BLOCK 1	32
2	32	2	32
3	32	3	32
4	32	4	31
5	32	5	30
6	32	6	32

A	B
D	C

TOTAL: 957 NAMES
KINGSMILL-MAPLETON WOWENS INSTITUTE AUTOGRAPH QUILT

KMWI 1927

ROW 1 BLOCK 1 - TOTAL 32 NAMES

- A.**
WILLIAM MEDLYN
WILLIAM WILLIAMS
ELSIE G. MEDLYN
JIMMY WALLACE
JIMMY THOMPSON
D.E. FOWLER
MRS. A.D. RUNNIONS
CECIL BUCKNELL
- D.**
MRS. J. HARRIS
L. MILLER
JOE LODATO
J. HURFORD BAKERY
DOROTHY HURFORD
CAVERLY'S PORK SHOP
ROY MORRIS
JACK CAUGHELL

- B.**
JACK JUETT
JOHN THOMPSON
W.H. BROWN
J.P. McLARTY
DONALD M. FERGUSON
A. COULTER
JOHN A. CHARLTON
JAMES MEDLYN
- C.**
MISS HAZEL R. HUTCHISON
MRS. C. H. WHITE
MRS. R. E. HAMILTON
DURKEE & SON
MRS. L. O. PURDY
MISS LENA NORTON
BETTY WHITE
BURLEY JANES

ROW 1 BLOCK 3 TOTAL 32 NAMES

- A.**
MRS. ANNIE FERRIS
MRS. BERTHA SHELLINGTON
MRS. VICTOR MOTE
MR. VICTOR MOTE
LLOYD MOTE
MRS. LEO SMITH
MRS. GEO. BAUSLAUGH
MRS. G. MORRISON
- D.**
MRS. J. ADDISON
STANLEY DICK
MRS. F. GEE
MRS. JOHN VANPATTER
MRS. SUSAN ELLIOTT
MISS CLARA BOWEN
MRS. BEATRICE SEARS
MRS. O. C. SMITH

- B.**
MRS. MIHLAN POWERS
MRS. MARTHA FAULDS
MISS SHIRLEY LUTON
MILTON HAMBLY
MISS LUCILE ABBOTT
MRS. HENRY HARKNESS
MISS MARY JONES
MRS. C. E. CHATTERSON
- C.**
MRS. W. E. HAWES
MRS. A. E. ATKINS
CLARKE ROCKEY
MRS. GEO. GRANT
MRS. EDITH MAY
MRS. BERTHA FILMORE
ORPHA CLAYDON
MRS. F. RIACH

ROW 1 BLOCK 2 - TOTAL 32 NAMES

- A.**
MRS. SINCLAIR (RUSS)
W.J. LITTLE
ELMORE CLINE
JACOB CLINE
BRUCE SMITH
MRS. MALCOM TAYLOR
MRS. E.D. LAYFIELD
GEORGE PATTERSON
- D.**
W.F. MATHEWS
HENRY CLAUS
MRS. H. CLAUS
ANNIE E. GENT
JENNIE GENT
MARY F. CAMPBELL
MISS M. SMITH
S. H. PAVEY

- B.**
GEORGE SAUNDERS
WILLIAM COUSINS
ROY LANGFORD
LENA BARTLEY
HAROLD FALLS
AUSTIN McCALLUM
MRS. ELMER BARONS
JOHN M. MacVICAR
- C.**
JOHN W. JOHNSON
FRANCIS LEARN
ELMER BARONS
ROY McTAGGART
MRS. R. McTAGGART
CHARLES E. RAVEN
HENRY G. MacGREGOR
MRS. SARAH McCaulley

ROW 1 BLOCK 4 - TOTAL NAMES 32

- A.**
MR. HODKISS
STOLLERY & BOOZEY
S. GOODHAM
MR. TIBBS
MRS. TIBBS
MRS. GILBERT
GRACE GRIFFIN
HAROLD GRIFFIN
- D.**
S. MERRITT
GRETA DRAKE
FRANK WHITCHURCH
ROY SMITH
CLOVES BARNES
HARRIET WHITESSELL
NELLIE ADAMS
NORMA HARING

- B.**
N. TAYLOR
EILEEN JUAD
P. PALMER
MR. SHIP
HELEN MARKELL
W. STINSON
MR. BECKIT
MRS. BECKIT
- C.**
DYME B. HAMILTON
LOUISE M. KERSWILL
HATTIE C. BROWN
LENA RIGGS
MARIE GUEST
KAY BRASSARD
ELIZABETH RIGG
MARY SPITLER