

TWEEDSMUIR

HISTORY



RIVER ROAD W.I.

VOL. 2

## RIVER ROAD W. I.

Organized April 21, 1921

Commencement of Tweedsmuir Book 1946

## Curators:

Mrs. G. Campbell	1946 - 1948
Mrs. C. Campbell	
Mrs. S. A. Fulton	1948 - 1949
Mrs. G. Campbell	
Mrs. S. A. Fulton	1949 - 1951
Mrs. C. Campbell	
Mrs. S. A. Fulton	1951 - 1961
Mrs. C. Lindsay	
Mrs. S. A. Fulton	1961 - 1969
Mrs. C. Lindsay	
Mrs. C. Campbell	
Mrs. C. Lindsay	1969 - 1972
Mrs. C. Campbell	
Mrs. C. Lindsay	1972 - 1973
Mrs. T. Cook	
Mrs. John Begg	1974 - 1975
Mrs. Cyril McCaig	
Mrs. L. Jones	1976 - 1977
Mrs. J. Begg	
Mrs. C. Lindsay	
Mrs. C. Lindsay	1977 - 1978
Mrs. T. Cook	
Mrs. C. Lindsay	1978 - 1980
Mrs. C. Lindsay	1980 - 1982
Mrs. C. Campbell	
Mrs. C. Lindsay	1983 - 1984
Mrs. C. Campbell	
Mrs. E. Reck	
Mrs. C. Campbell	1984 - 1985
Mrs. B. Veenstra	
Mrs. B. Veenstra	1986 -
Mrs. J. Palmer	



I N D E X

River Road W.I. Organized April 21, 1921.

Tweedsmuir History --- 1946

Lord and Lady Tweedsmuir

The Tweedsmuirs

Picture of Mrs. Hoodless

Mrs. Hoodless history Curators

Our W.I. Meeting 1937. West Elgin W.I.

Family History, Campbells, Robbins, Thompson

Whites Station Cemetery

Whites Station Church

Kettle Creek

Club History

Personalities

Farming 1867-1967 Mail Routes Train Disaster  
Col. Talbot Centennial 1903 Events R.R.

Members of R.R.W.I.

Presidents and Secretary's R.R.W.I. and history

Life Members R.R.W.I.

Deaths in Community

Weddings in Community

Indians

St. Thomas Centennial 1952

Setting up a County Museum

50th. Anniversary of the R.R.W.I.

River Road Women's Institute

Organized April 21 1921

Commencement of Tweedsmuir Book 1946

Lord Tweedsmuir: born John Buchan in Scotland, Aug. 25, 1875, the son of Rev. John Buchan.

Historian, novelist and Governor-General of Canada from 1935 to 1940.

Called to the Bar in 1901.

From 1927 to 1935 he was a member of British House of Commons for Scottish Universities.

In 1935 he was titled "Baron Tweedsmuir".

Author of a number of biographies and historical works;

Sir Walter Raleigh

Sir Walter Scott

Julius Caesar

Oliver Cromwell

The Massacre of Glencoe

The King's Grace.

Some of his novels were: The 39 Steps

Salute to Adventures

The Three Hostages,

"Memory Hold the Dore" was his autobiography and one of his latest works. John Buchan, the first Lord Tweedsmuir, died in Montreal on Feb. 11th, 1940. His library was bequeathed to Queen's University at Kingston, Ontario.

Lady Tweedsmuir: Susan, wife of our beloved Governor-General, has written many plays, children's books and reminiscences. She was an ardent W.I. Member in England, and was made an Honorary Life Member of .W.I.O. She advocated that our organization across Canada compile the histories of our local communities and villages. She returned to England following the death of her husband, and is still residing there. (1962)





This is a picture of the officers of the English Women's Institute, that River Road Inst. sent food and clothing parcels to during the war. The cake in the picture was made from fruit sent at Xmas one year.

note underneath picture









## Our W.I.

To read the minutes of previous meetings of our Inst. is to review the labour so freely given of some who have passed on, of others now grown older in the work, and of those who now grown to womanhood are now carrying on.

The story of births, marriage, sickness, recovery from illness, moving away of some member, and deaths are all recorded in letters of thanks and appreciation read at meetings.

Our early records from the formation of our Institute in 1921 to 1931 are unfortunately lost to us, but Mrs. Geo. Campbell has recorded some of the early work done by members. This period following as it did World War 1 when people were adjusting to peace, saw Education, Community Welfare, and Charity as some of the goals of Institute work.

Never has our Institute been large, varying from time to time from perhaps 15 to 30 members. It is wonderful that so many worthwhile projects have been undertaken and accomplished by so few.

Money has been raised in much the same manner as in other Institutes by parties, dances, teas, selling tickets, catering plays, birthday boxes, quilting, food, vegetable and white elephant sales, autograph quilts, travelling aprons, mystery parcels, etc. From 1931 to Apr. 1957 approximately \$3,85.62 has been raised.

During the passing years many donations were given to our school. We have assisted in hiring music teachers, sponsored hot lunches, given prizes for oratorical contest, planted shrubs and bulbs, helped with Music Festivals, decorated the school, purchased rug, curtains for teacher's room, runner for corridor, cot and blanket, play equipment, electric kettle, and clock, rack for coats, radio and piano and given money to Shedden Fair Board to assist in children's work. We have also supplied tables, chairs, electric plate, dishes and silver for our own gathering.

In other community activities we have assisted needy families, had "Slow" signs erected near school, called councils attention to groken guard rails, untrimmed trees blocking road view, and need for certain road repairs.

The Sunday School children and school and community children were and are give treats at Christmas. The shut-ins are remembered too and cards and flowers sent to the sick and bereaved. There have been showers for our brides, presents for newly-wed, sons or daughters of members and gifts for new babies.



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Our W.I. Cont.

Donations outside our community have been to children's shelter, Hospital for Sick Children Toronto, War Memorial childrens Hospital London. Tuberculosis Fund, Cancer Fund, Institute for Blind, Johnny Page Fund. Red Cross, Layettes for children in the north, Fund for Korea, Memorial Hospital Aid, Hoodless Fund, Hospital Building Fund, United Welfare Fund, Tractor and Flour Fund for Greece. To U.N.E.S.C.O Fund for Ceylon. To Elgin Manor for Television set, and more recently to the Museum Fund. The museum opened Apr. 5. 1957

During World War 2 the women were busy with Red Cross work. Meetings were held at Fingal where sewing and knitting were given out to be returned and packed at a later date. Mrs. J. A. Campbell reported at the close of the war 600 articles of sewing and 526 articles of knitting completed by our Institute. Quilts, blankets and money were donated too by our group. Jam which we made in our homes, and honey purchased from Mr. Askew was sent overseas. Mrs. Geo. Campbell received the Red Cross pin for her untiring work in Red Cross work.

To the boys from this neighborhood Neil Campbell, Joe Coleman, Colin O'Brien, Robert Lindsay, Lawrence Cummings gifts were given when they went overseas. While they were there parcels of food, candy, cigarettes, and letters and cards were sent. On their return a social evening was held in the school.

In May 1944, it was decided to place an Honour Roll in the school. Miss Carolyn Curtis very beautifully printed the names and J. H. McPherson made the frame. On Dec. 3 with the Union United Choir present and Rev. H.S. Rodney officiating the Honour Roll until the names of those serving in World Wars 1 - 2 was unveiled by Mrs. Geo. Campbell.

Our first Institute meetings were held in the afternoon but more recently in the evening. Our early programs were planned but a month or two in advance but since 1936 in charge of a committee and under the W.I. program they are planned for the year.

These programs with the place of meeting, date, roll call, motto, lunch committee and topic have been kindly typed by members including Helen Campbell, Velma Campbell, Eleanor Campbell, Catherine McPherson, Margaret Austin and by the typist at the Agricultural Rooms. We have speakers, films, programs given by grandmothers and for them and by the young girls of the community.

In 1937, the Young Girls Coronation Sewing Club consisting of Catherine McPherson leader, Ethel Ashmore, Geanalta Darrach, Marianne Coleman, Velma Campbell in their project, Cottons May be Smart brought honours to their club by obtaining first class honours at Achievement Day and were given a trip to Toronto.



We have had many interesting papers by our own members. There have been travelogues, Talks on nursing and Hearth, Music, Home Economics. Hoistorical Research, Papers on Famous Men and Women. Education, Demonstrations, Old Keepsakes, Heirlooms, wearing apparel, photographs have been brought to our grandmother's meeting. The grandmothers have been honoured by flowers and candy. They have sometimes put on the program at a "grandmother's meeting" or have been entertained by the other members. Music has been supplied for our meetings by members or their children, by visitors and by school children in a group.

We have enjoyed besides our annual school picnic in June our winter family night, and Halloween Party, outings to Port Stanley, Pinafore Park, Springbank, Waterworks Park, Port Talbot, Times-Journal, Redmond Motors,

The 50th. anniversay of the founding of the W.I. by Adelaide Hoodless at Stoney Creek in 1897 was celebrated at Guelph June .8, 1947. The Historical pageant "Let There Be Light" was given. Several from here attended. Some of our members took a bus trip to Dearborn June 6, 1950. We assisted at the Centennial celebrations in St. Thomas in 1952.

The A.C.W.W. Met. in Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto in Aug. 1953. It was a wonderful gathering, many colorful costumes were worn by delegates from distant parts of the globe. Several of our members went by train for one day there. We hear many splendid addresses that gave us an idea of the great work of rural women the world over.

In Nov. 1947 we "adopted" and Institute in England. Since that time we have enjoyed sending and receiving gifts to and from them. We have sent cake mixes, dried fruits, soap tea canned goods, clothing, a book "Fifty Years of Achievement" an aluminum relish plate, a Canadian Scenic Calendar, Dish, pictures, tea towels, and received books, a lovely serving tray, scenic towels, cook book.

Our first annual dinner party was held at "The Little Pigs Pentry" Apr.22, 1953. We have had others at the Marguee The Y.W.C.A. The First United Church, Maloys, and a private home.

We celebrated our 25th anniversay on Apr. 24, 1946 by holding as anniversay tea at the school, and our 30th. anniversary on May 23, 1951. and our 35th in April 1956 at the Marquee, with Mrs. McNeil as speaker.

The 50th. anniversary of the founding of the W.I. was celebrated locally in the school on Fri. evening Feb. 21, 1947. when about 75 Members of the Institute, their families and neighbours gathered for a supper and program. The head table held a cake, prettily decorated in yellow with 50 blue candles. Mrs. W.A. Metler president presided. An interesting program was given. Photographs were taken and are in this book.



At our August Meeting 1944 it was moved by Mrs. K. Campbell and seconded by Mrs. E. Campbell that the hospitalization plan be adopted by the group.

The idea of the Tweedsmuir Book was introduced July 1946 and the book shown Sept. 1946. Mrs. Geo. Campbell assisted by Mrs. Curtis Campbell compiled the earlier history in the book.

In 1947 at the Christmas meeting we had an exchange of gifts, which has been a feature of our Dec. meetings since.

Radio broadcasts over C.H.L.O were given by Mrs. Metler. Nov. 16, 1951 on Local History. By Mrs. S. A. Fulton on July 16/52 on W. I. work and by Mrs. S. A. Fulton on "The Institute Ode"

We have attended the Area Conventions for many years. These were usually held in Hotel London. The tickets at the delightful banquet in the hotel in the evening were for many years 25 cents. Formerly held for three days it is now of two day duration and is held in the Masonic Auditorium.

Also to bring us up to-date with Institute work we have attended District Annual Conventions held in various centres in West Elgin and have from time to time with Middlemarch or Paynes Mills acted as hostess.

Winter picnics were first held at Alma College by East and West Elgin branches together. Of late years our picnics are held separately in different centres in West Elgin.

We have entertained neighboring branches and in turn have been entertained by them. Many splendid speakers have come to talk to us.

We have had Department speakers, district officers. Some of these who have given interesting talks include, Miss Margaret Brown (Mrs. Dr. Sinclair Aylmer) Mrs. B. Curtis. Mr. R. W. Johnson, Dr. Smith, Mr. Patton of the Bell Telephone, Mrs. M. F. Hepburn on her "Impressions of Ottawa", Madeleine Fulton (Mrs. H. Parks), Mr. Ian Cameron, Mr. McNeil, Miss Bochmer, Mrs. A. McIntyre, Mr. Agnew, Miss M. Lyle, Miss Norah Curtis, Miss Rutherford (Public Health Nurse), Miss Fish (Public Health Nurse) Dr. Sawyer on Cancer, Mary Jean Brown Dr. Kennedy, Mr. Langton, Mrs. Lyle Cook, Mrs. Alex Lyle on Indians, Dr. Coburn, Mrs. Stillwell, Mrs. Best, Mr. Hellyar, Mr. Fergus Cron.

Mrs. and Mrs. J. Ferguson showed slides of their trip to the near East. Mrs. Fitcher of her trip to Northern Europe and the British Isles. Mr. Mrs. J. Cummings on their trip to England and Claude Davies on his trip to Africa.



## W. I. Work - R.R. W.I. 1957-67

During the years 1952-67 we have enjoyed many speaker, films, demonstrations at our meetings as well as participating in various social activities.

Speakers included Mrs. D. Brown, Mrs. M. Best, Fergus Cron. Mrs. McCaig, "Trip to New York" and Mexico". Miss G. Elliott "Ireland," Mrs. Rose Lotus, who came from Ukrania on "Work among New Canadians" Miss Lillian Ross, "Trip to California" Mrs. POW "Tea and Coff", Mrs. Reck "Juga Slavia", her native land. Mrs. Miller "Early Local History" Mrs. M. Austin "Education" Mrs. G. Thorman "White Cross Work". Mrs. J. W. Lowry "Handwriting Analysis". Mr. H. M. McCormick of Redmond Montors on "Business" Mr. B.G. Thacker "Elgin St. Thomas General Hospital on "Work of Retarded" Mrs. W. Anderson "Trip to Montreal to Canadian Museum Convention" Mrs. Gowan Young "Public Relations". Mrs. Mabel Stillwell "Fall Fairs" Mrs. Galloway and Mrs Harper "Film on Cancer," Mrs Bergsteinson teacher of Home Economics A.V.V.S Mrs. Mabel Warden "St John's Ambulance," Mrs. N. Campbell "Trip to California", Mrs. Clara Fulton "Trip to Florida and Nassau" Mr. Claude Davies "Trip Through Africa," Mrs. N.D. Campbell "Film on trip to California." Ella Axford "Trip to B.C."

Two of our members Mrs. S.A. Fulton in 1965 and Mrs Jas. McPherson in 1966 attended the "Officers Conference at Guelph."

Mahy interesting papers were given by our own members. Often the convenors of standing committees gave excellent papers or demonstrations in their particular subject.

We enjoyed one afternoon meeting with Middlemarch W. I. W.I. members attended Area Conventions mostly in London but in 1964 the 50th. anniversary of the London Area Convention was held in St. Thomas at Grace United Church. In 1965 at Stratford in 1966 at Goderich .

During the years we attended winter picnics , district annuals, teas, parties, with neighboring Institute. We entertained members of several Institutes at the Y. W. C. A. , had Christmas parties and celebrated our 40th. and 45th. anniversaries.

Our 40th. anniversary in 1961 was celebrated at the Marque in St. Thomas. We had a turkey dinner. At the head table were seated the first Pres. Mrs. G. Campbell, the first sec. Mrs. W.A. Metler and the 1961 officers Mrs. C. Lindsay.Pres., Miss Lillian Ross. Sec and Mrs. Clarence Fulton Treas. The tea table was centered with an anniversary cake, yellow candles and grape hyacinths. Mrs. J.D Galbraith Pres. of W. Elgin Institutes was present and brought greetings. Cards were played following the business meeting.

The 45th. anniversary was celebrated Apr. 20, 1966 at the home of Mrs. Dalton Binks 10 Third Ave. St. Thomas. Miss Carol Lanning a graduate of Guelph gave a talk on the 4 year course for girls at Guelph University. An anniversary cake and ice cream were served to the fifteen present. We helped at teas at Museum and assisted at the International Plowing Match at Springfield, at the Carnival at the O.H. We have entertained the residents at Elgin Manor, held card parties at the O.H. for the patients and assisted in the Tuck Shop at the Elgin Manor.

We have donated to the Cancer Fund U.N.E.S.C.O. Pennies for Friendship, Shedden Fair Board, Dr. Smell School of Nursing,



St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital, School Bus Trip, To patients at the O. H. and residents of Elgin Manor, to the Elgin Manor Auxiliary. The sick, shut-ins, and bereaved in the community have been remembered as well as donations to a needy family. We also gave going away gifts and gifts to newly weds.

We usually met in members homes but held some meetings in the Museum, at Elgin Manor and at Southwold School No.1. Methods of making money have included rummage and food sales, card parties donations and percentage of Cosmetic Sales.

Three Life Memberships were presented during the years 1957-67 to Mrs. W.A. Metler, Mrs. S.A. Fulton, Mrs. N.D. Campbell.

In this summary it is impossible to list all the activities and topics taken up but it is quite evident that these have been a profitable and enjoyable ten years in W.I. work.

From the treasurer's report we find the receipts from 1957-67 have been approximately \$1765.76 and expenditures \$1509.26.

#### W.I. WORK - R.R.W.I. 1968-1972

During 1968-72 we have enjoyed many speakers, films, and demonstrations at our meetings which have been held in members' homes, the museum, and Southwold School #1.

Speakers included "Trip to the British Isles" Mrs. G. Lewis, "Retarded school Children" Mrs. M. Stillwell, "Films and talk on British Isles" Mrs. G. Vogan. Also, "Friendco Workshop talk and tour" Mr. McCormick, "Being a Student Nurse," Jane Begg. "Film and talk on Hawaii trip" Mrs. W.D. Metler. "Children's Aid Work" Mrs. Wilson, "Talk on Needle Painting," Mrs. M. Clatworthy. "United Nations," Mrs. G. Young.

Papers by our own members included: "Historical Research on Southwold Township and village of Fingal" Mrs. C. Campbell. "Talk and demonstration on Machine Knitting," Mrs. C. Lindsay. "Parkinsons Disease," Mrs. G. Beattie. "Plastics and their use in Agriculture," Mrs. F. Begg. "Public Relations," Mrs. W.A. Metler. "Safety" Mrs. E. Reck. "Talk on trip to Canadian West," Mrs. W. A. Metler. "Film and Talk on trip to West Coast of Canada," Miss L. Ross. "Harvesting now and years ago," Mrs. C. Campbell. "How to be a juror," Mrs. N. D. Campbell. "Paper on Epileptics," Mrs. C. Lindsay, "Paper on Reeves and Council members of bygone years," Mrs. G. Vowels. "Trip to England and Scotland" Mrs. N. D. Campbell. "13 Years in Shoe factory" Mrs. L. Jones. "Film and talk on tour of Alaska" Mrs. C. McCaig. "Then and now wedding by Mrs. G. Vowels and Mrs. C. Thacker. "Paper on Poisons" Mrs. D. Bryden. "Pattern designing," Mrs. C. Lindsay. "Tomatoes" Mrs. E. Reck. "Canadian Heritage" by Mrs. N. D. Campbell. "Talk and pictures on Scandinavian trip" Mrs. C. McCaig

Delegates have been sent to the Officers' Conferences at Guelph, West Elgin district annuals, winter picnics, and London District conventions.

Mrs. C. Campbell and Mrs. F. Begg attended the 75th Anniversary celebrations of all W.I. at the Royal York Hotel on Feb. 12, 1972. Several members attended the 75th anniversary celebration for Elgin County W.I. at the Balaclava St. United Church in St. Thomas on April 20/72. Mrs. C. Lindsay of River Road W.I. took part in the candlelighting ceremony.



Demonstrations and displays held from 1968-72 were: Indian and Eskimo relics, 4-H work, Freezer forums attended by members, Knitting demonstration, Amway party, Tupperware party Candle making, Pottery, Needle painting, and Pattern designing.

Donations have been made to: Elgin Manor, Museum, Shedden Baby Clinic, Cancer Society, Money for card tables at Elgin Manor, West Elgin W.I. Retarded Children's school, and Daffodil Cupboard.

The 50th Anniversary of River Road W. I. was celebrated at the Y.W.C.A on April 24/71 with a smorgasbord dinner and program (Full write-up in T.H.B.) There were fifty-three past and present members present.

Newly wed couples have been given gifts; plants, flowers and cards have been sent to the sick and bereaved; shut-ins are remembered at Christmas; birthday gifts and Xmas gifts are given to two Elgin Manor residents; new mothers are given gifts; prizes for card parties; pennies for friendship; War Memorial Children's fund.

Reports have been given by members on: safety meetings, museum meetings, Guelph officers' conferences, Elgin Manor work, District Annual, Winter picnics, and District conventions.

River Road W.I. has been host to winter picnics, entertained district officers, had smorgasbord picnics, held a "Safety Poster Contest" for pupils at Southwold #1.

Money has been raised by: collections, donations, interest, vegetable sale, bake sale, card parties, hat auction, rummage sales, catering to an anniversary dinner, catering at a farm sale, talent contest, white elephant sales, tupperware party, Anniversary party, members' pins sale, sale of spoons, luncheon at Southwold school and cosmetic sale.

From the treasurer's report we find the receipts from 1968-72 have been approximately \$2,679.93 and expenditures were \$1,826.45.

#### W.I. WORK 1972 - 1977

In April, 1972 River Road W.I. displayed a poster on "Past and Present" at a W.I. Rally meeting.

On April 20, 1972 all branches of Elgin County Institutes met at Grace United Church in St. Thomas to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the F.W.I.O's; a lovely program was enjoyed by all and Miss Lois Ferguson, Home Economist was introduced and the meeting closed by serving ice cream and cake. River Road W.I. members act as volunteers at Elgin Manor Tuck shop. In May 1972 Mrs. Tom Cook attended the officers' conference in Guelph.

Flowers were planted at Mellor Cemetery in June/72. On October 8, 1972 the R.R.W.I. served lunch at the 50th Wedding anniversary for Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Beattie. In September '72 some beautiful hats were auctioned and three members were given complimentary tickets to volunteers to the Manor Tuck shop meal. A program on dress designing was given by Mrs. Catherine Lindsay.



*60 years April 21, 1981*

In starting my paper on the founding of and work of the River Road Women's Institute I must confess it is not all comprised of my research into the minute books. I have borrowed from the histories compiled by the late members Mrs. Etta Campbell and Mrs. Clara Fulton who gave the best part of a lifetime to this branch and were so capable in any office they held. However, I have read every minute book from cover to cover and enjoyed it immensely. It is regrettable that the first nine years of records have been lost.

The ladies of the community gathered at the home of Mrs. John A. Campbell to form the River Road W.I. on April 21, 1921. There to organize the branch was Mrs. McLevey, Elgin West Secretary and Mrs. Mac McKillop, president.

The first president was: Mrs. George Campbell, formerly Etta Curtis of Middlemarch

The 1st Vice President : Mrs. John Campbell, formerly Mabel Westlake of North Yarmouth.

The first secretary was: Mrs. William Metler, formerly Myrtle Thompson of River Road.

Other charter members were:

Mrs. Richard Lindsay	Mrs. William Coleman
Mrs. Daniel McPherson	Mrs. Thomas McGaw
Mrs. John Beattie	Mrs. Frank Joiner
Miss Maryanne Joyner	Mrs. Samuel Page
Mrs. James Barrie	Mrs. Fred Chaplow
Miss Jean Campbell (later Mrs. Brown)	

Of these first members we are so happy to have the first secretary, Mrs. Myrtle Metler still an active member. Mrs. Brown, we are sorry to report has been a long time patient at the Memorial Continuing Care Unit.

Many of our present members grew to womanhood in the work of the