



Mrs. Marshall (Dolly) Field

President 1966 - 1969

Mrs. Dolly Field was the third child of ten children born to Alexander and Margaret (Armstrong) McCaw of St. Thomas, Ontario.

She received her education at Manitoba and Union Public Schools and at the St. Thomas Collegiate Institute and Arthur Voaden Secondary School. She worked for Loblaw Groceteria as a cashier until her marriage to Marshall Field on October 18, 1944.

With Marshall in the R.C.A.F. they lived in Truro, Nova Scotia, and St. George, New Brunswick until his discharge. They then built a home on the 6th Concession of Yarmouth Township and Marshall returned to his job at Pinafore Park, St. Thomas. He became Parks Superintendent in September 1956, so the family moved to the residence at the Park.

They have two sons, Larry Douglas who lives in Markham, with his wife Mary Anne (Knight) and children, Sean, Jodi and Karen. Marshall Bruce and his wife Nicole (Verhaverbeke) and son David live in Brampton.

Dolly joined the Central Yarmouth Branch on September 1, 1948, and is a charter member. She was honored with a life membership in the Branch in September 1979. Throughout the years, she has been a Agriculture & Canadian Industries convener, 2nd vice-president, treasurer, assistant secretary, secretary-treasurer, public relations officer (12 years in all) 1st vice-president, president, District Director, Citizenship & World Affairs convener, Tweedsmuir History Curator. At District level, she was P.R.O. for 5 years, Federation Representative for 1 year and Tweedsmuir History Curator for 6½ years. On the Elgin County Rally Committee she looked after public relations for 2 years. She has been the assistant representative for 3 years for the Elgin East District W.I. on the Elgin County Museum Board and is now the representative.

For hobbies, Dolly does knitting and has been a member of the St. Thomas Field Naturalist Club since its inception in 1950. Also interested in church work in the local congregation, in Presbytery and Conference level. Also interested in history and has compiled two books for St. Andrew's United Church, one for the Naturalist Club and one for Central Yarmouth.

Dolly and Marshall Field still reside in the Pinafore Park residence at 89 Elm St., St. Thomas, Ontario.

Written by Mrs. Marshall (Dolly) Field

February 1982.



Mrs. Gowan (Marguerite) Young  
President 1969 - 1973

Marguerite Young was the tenth president of Central Yarmouth Women's Institute with an outstanding record of service to the community, church life and Women's Institute.

Marguerite was the only daughter in a family of four of John and Nellie (Minor) Teeple and grew up on the family farm, Lot 9, Conc. 7 Yarmouth Township. After attending S.S.#18, Yarmouth and the St. Thomas Collegiate Institute, her employment years were spent as Executive Secretary of the Ford dealership in St. Thomas and Chatham.

In 1931, Marguerite married James Gowan Young and lived on the farm at Lot 9, Conc. 6, Yarmouth Township, where they raised two children, Claire (Mrs. Mac Dunan) and James. Her two granddaughters, Maribeth and Jocie Young now are her great joy.

Marguerite joined South Yarmouth W.I. in 1932 where she served on Standing Committees and Vice-President, then in 1948 joined Central Yarmouth W.I. Her services to this Branch, District and Area levels are documented in the article on her Life Membership presentation.

Central Yarmouth W.I. has always been proud of her as a member and her friendship is treasured.

Information supplied by Mrs. G. (Marguerite)  
February 1990 Young

Written by Mrs. Catherine Lemon, Curator  
March 1990



Mrs. Marguerite Weir  
President 1973 - 1975

Mrs. Leila Marguerite Weir was born at Dexter, Ont. to Isaac Henry and Stella Maude (Parker) Jones.

After two years at London High School, she became a bank clerk. On January 19, 1921, she married Robert Henry Weir who was a farmer until 1945, at Sparta, Ont., then he was a machine operator for Erie Iron Works, St. Thomas.

They have two sons, Murray Edward Weir and James Andrew Weir.

Marguerite was a member of Sparta Sorosis Women's Institute in 1927. She joined Central Yarmouth W. I. in April 1971, and was a vice-president and then president from 1972 to 1975.

Marguerite's favourite hobbies are helping different groups, reading and going on bus trips. She also does needlework and enjoys playing cards.

Marguerite Weir worked at Alma College for a period of time and was well liked among the staff and girls.

Information supplied by Mrs. Marguerite Weir  
February 1982

Written by Mrs. Marshall(Dolly) Field, Curator

# Obituaries

## Marguerite Weir

Services will be Tuesday for Leila Marguerite Weir, of Valleyview Home for the Aged, St. Thomas, who died on Saturday, Oct. 28, 1989, at St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital. She was 87.

Born in Dexter, Yarmouth Township, Sept. 28, 1902, daughter of the late Isaac Henry and Stella Maud (Parker) Jones, she was a lifelong area resident. Her former residence in St. Thomas was at 52 Parkside Drive. She worked at the Air School and was a member of the dietary staff at Alma College for more than 30 years. She was a member of Sparta United Church and Dexter United Church Women.

The widow of Robert Henry Weir, who die April, 1966, she is survived by two sons Murray Weir, of Valleyview, St. Thomas, and James Weir and his wife Kathleen, 239 Erie Street, St. Thomas; five grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Resting at Williams Funeral Home, 45 Elgin Street, St. Thomas, for visitation from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. today, and where funeral service will be conducted on Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. with Rev. Eric LeDrew, of Sparta and Union United churches, officiating. Burial at Sparta Cemetery.

Donations may be made to Sparta United Church of charity of choice.



Mrs. Frank (Mini) Vanderveen

President 1975 - 1978

Mrs. Frank (Mini) Vanderveen was born Homiena Grietje in Friesland, The Netherlands, to Hans and Cjrietje (Coree) Blom.

After attending high school, she became a saleslady until her marriage to Frank Vanderveen on July 11, 1940, in Drachten, Holland--Province of Friesland.

Frank's occupation in Holland was operating a grocery store and since coming to Canada, he has farmed and was a nursing assistant at St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital until his retirement.

Frank and Mini have 5 children; Margaret (Helder) lives near Aylmer; Jan Hans lives near Russell, Ont.; Hans at Aylmer, Ont.; Ina Vanderveen at Hamilton; and Arnold in Toronto, Ont.

Mini joined Central Yarmouth W.I. in April, 1962, and has been a 2nd vice-president, 1st vice-president, president, Historical Research and Current Events convener, District Director (twice) and presently Agriculture and Canadian Industries convener.

Mini is interested in crafts and she is a very talented person at crocheting. Her and Frank do some travelling and now are living on Lyndale Avenue, St. Thomas, having sold their farm on the 6th Concession of Yarmouth in 1980. Mini is very active in Knox Presbyterian Church and especially in the Country Circle of the Ladies'Aid. Central Yarmouth W.I. has been enriched with Mini's presence as she brought many wise decisions into the group as well as her friendly spirit.

Information supplied by Mrs. Frank (Mini)  
Vanderveen, February 1982

Written by Mrs. Marshall (Dolly) Field, Curator



Mrs. Edward (Grace) Griffiths  
President 1978 - 1980

Grace Isabel(Freeman) Griffiths was born to Vernon and May (McKenzie) Freeman in Yarmouth Township.

She attended the St. Thomas Collegiate Institute until Grade 13, then took training at London Normal School but didn't teach. She then took a 10-month training course at St. Thomas Business School, working later as a clerk-typist for A.J. Schweitzer Motors and Brock Jewellers in Kingston, Ont.

Grace married Edward Lorence Frederick Griffiths on March 3, 1941, and they have one son, Lorence Vernon Griffiths, and two granddaughters, Shari and Tammy Griffiths.

Grace was a member for one year with the Kingston W.I. but joined Central Yarmouth in April 1973 and since then has held the following offices; Agriculture and Canadian Industries convener, 1st vice-president, president, District Director and Resolutions convener.

Her favourite hobbies are cross-word puzzles, crocheting, and talking to people.

Other interests are church work and Scouting--she has been the treasurer in the Elgin District Scout Council, writing and receiving letters.

Grace Griffiths resides in Port Stanley. She has been a very valuable member of Central Yarmouth and always willing to help.

Information supplied by Mrs. E. (Grace) Griffiths  
February 1982

Written by Mrs. Marshall (Dolly) Field, Curator



Mrs. William (Vivian) McCaw  
President 1980 - 1984

Mrs. Vivian Edith McCaw was the eldest daughter of Clyde and Milly (Shelley) Bond. Born in Yarmouth Township, she attended Seminary Public School and Arthur Voaden Vocational School.

She married William J. McCaw on August 14, 1940, and went to live in Sydney, Nova Scotia, for a short time as her husband was in the Royal Canadian Navy. After the war, they lived on Myrtle St., St. Thomas, while her husband worked for the City Dairy. In 1947, they moved to their farm on R. R. # 2, St. Thomas, and started a Holstein dairy herd.

They have a family of six children: Richard W.; Michael D. (deceased); Brian J. (who works the farm with his Dad); Janice V. (Zwicker); Stephen A.C.; and Diane C. (Ketchabaw); and eleven grandchildren.

Vivian joined the Institute in April 1960, and has been secretary-treasurer (8 years), treasurer, Home Economics & Health convener; assistant secretary-treasurer, 1st vice-president and now president.

Not only has Vivian held these various offices, but also has gone out to the Elgin Manor Tuck Shop on a regular basis for the Branch, she has looked after Aylmer Fair displays and also a short course leader on many occasions.

At Elgin East District level, Vivian has been Convener of Family and Consumer Affairs for three years.

Working with Women's Institute and attending meetings, reading and bowling are favourite hobbies, while helping in any way with her children and grandchildren and family is of great interest to her.

Vivian McCaw has been a very loyal and dedicated member and in her position as president has done a commendable job.

Information supplied by Mrs. William (Vivian) McCaw  
February 1982.

Written by Mrs. Marshall (Dolly) Field, Curator.



Mrs. Mac (Marjory) Watson

President 1984 - 1986

Marjory Watson, president of Central Yarmouth Women's Institute from 1984-1986, was born June 2, 1944 to Harold and Luella Martyn and grew up on the family farm at R. R. #1, Sparta, Ontario, where her father hatched and raised turkeys. Her great-grandfather, J. P. Martyn was a councilman when St. Thomas became a city.

Marjory's early education was obtained at Chestnut Grove School-S.S.#12 Yarmouth, then St. Thomas Collegiate Institute and London Teachers' College. At present (1990) she is teaching children with learning disabilities.

Marjory married McKellar Watson and is residing on the couple's farm at R. R. #2, St. Thomas. Mac and Marjory have four children-Luella, a nurse; Bonnie attending University; Norman and Laura who are presently attending high school.

In 1969, Marjory joined Central Yarmouth W.I. and has had convenorship of Tweedsmuir History, presented many interesting programs and also president. She believes this Branch has been unique in bringing country and city women together.

Information supplied by Mrs. Mac (Marjory)Watson  
February 1990

Written by Mrs. Catherine Lemon, Curator  
March 1990





Mrs. A.C.T. (Hazel) Suckling

President 1986 - 1990

Mrs. Hazel (Roberts) Suckling was born in Hartney, Manitoba, receiving her education in Hartney, Waskada and Deloraine, south-western Manitoba. Attending a 6-week permit teaching course in Winnipeg, she taught school for 4 months and then in February 1943, joined the C.W.A.C. (army). She trained and served in Kitchener, Ottawa, Saskatoon, Winnipeg and Camp Shilo, Manitoba, before being posted overseas to Aldershot and London, England.

Hazel married A.C.T. Suckling in 1943 and after the war ended, and she was discharged in England in December 1945, they continued to live there until 1948. When they returned to Canada, they settled in Fort William (later named Thunder Bay). After retiring they moved to St. Thomas, Ont. in 1984. They have two sons, one living in St. Thomas, married with two daughters, and one in Athens, Georgia, married with three daughters.

Hazel's association dates back to 1938 with the Women's Institute as her mother was a member of the W.I. at that time. It wasn't until November 1955, that Hazel became a member of the Westfort Branch and this happened through the arrangements of a W.I. lady she had met while a patient in the hospital.

Over the years in the Westfort Branch she has held such offices as Branch Director, District Director, Branch Secretary from 1964-1970 and President from 1961-63 and 1977-80. It was in 1985 that Hazel joined Central Yarmouth W.I. and from 1986-1990, she has served as President for which the Branch is very appreciative of her leadership and friendship.

Hazel has attended many courses over the years, some as leader or assistant in such interests as preserving dried flowers and weeds, dressmaking, rug hooking and sewing. She is also very interested in making crafts.

Hazel Suckling is also a leader at St. Mark's United Church where she is involved in the Seniors' Club.

Information supplied by Mrs. Hazel Suckling

Written by Mrs. Catherine Lemon, Curator  
March 1990