

# Lyons Institute 60th Anniversary

The 60th anniversary of Lyons Women's Institute was held in the Community hall at Lyons with over 100 former members and visitors in attendance from Institutes in the district.

The programme was opened by the president, Mrs. Alvin Jacklin and consisted of roll call of former presidents and was answered by seven present. A moment of silence was observed for departed presidents and members.

Mrs. Freeman Parker, secretary-treasurer read a clipping of a meeting held in 1915 at the home of Mrs. James Mitchell at Lyons.

Mrs. Grace Forrest gave some humorous and interesting readings.

Mrs. M. Pardy of Mount Brydges and editor of the Home and Country was guest speaker and told of the founding and organization of the first Institute and said all have to be adaptable to change and environment in the homes of to-day and think of the cultural roll as well as housekeeping. She also stressed on the importance of the

4-H Clubs as they are the future Institute members. She also stressed the study of Human Rights Bill. In Mrs. Pardy's address, she also stressed the study of the Human Right Bill.

Miss Hall from England, who is a W.I. member and is visiting in St. Thomas was a welcome visitor and gave a

few words. Greetings were also brought by Mrs. Gowan Young, St. Thomas F.W.I.O. board members, Mrs. W. Holmes, Aylmer, Elgin County W. I. President; Mrs. C. Phillips, Aylmer, East-Elgin W. I. President; Mrs. Ernest Parsons, Past President of East Middlesex W.I.; Mrs. Marcou, St. Thomas, Home Economist for Elgin County.

Mrs. Frank Irish played a number of piano selections after which Bless Be the Tie that Binds was sung.

A social hour was spent at the tea table with the 4-H club girls serving. Those pouring tea were Mrs. Stanley Simpson and Mrs. Joe Connor, both former presidents, Mrs. Hugh McNeil and Mrs. Ada Parker.



The Lyons Women's Institute celebrated its 60th anniversary last week when they hosted other Institutes of the area. Shown here, left to right, are Miss Mary Hall, a guest from Pittingdon, Durham, England; Mrs. M. Pardy, editor of the Home and Country, who was guest speaker; Mrs. Gowan Young, a director of the F.W.I.O.; Mrs. Alvin Jacklin, president of the Lyons Women's Institute; Mrs. Stanley Simpson, Tillsonburg, president of the Lyons W.I. in 1919-20 and Mrs. Freeman Parker, secretary-treasurer of the Lyons W. I.





**CELEBRATE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY**—Yesterday the Lyons Women's Institute celebrated its 60th anniversary. A special guest and speaker for the occasion was Mrs. Maryon Pardy of Mount Brydges, editor of Home and Country. Cutting the anniversary cake, left to right, are: Mrs. Joseph Connor of Belmont, Mrs. Arthur Moore of Kingsmill, Mrs. Alvin Jacklin of Aylmer, Lyons WI president; Mrs. Pardy and Mrs. Stanley Simpson of Tillson-



*You are Cordially Invited to Attend  
The Sixtieth Anniversary  
of the  
Lyons Women's Institute  
at the  
Community Hall at Lyons on  
Tuesday, June the Eighteenth  
Nineteen Hundred and Sixty-Eight  
at Two O'Clock in the Afternoon*



MRS. T. GORDON WINDER

Mrs. T.G.Winder was the first president of the Lyons' Womens Intitute when it was formed in 1908. Besides holding other offices in the Branch, she was District Secretary 1911-1915, District President 1918-1919 and again District Secretary 1921-1931.

Coming to Lyons in 1904 as a bride Mrs. Winder served loyally, sparing no time or effort to further a project which would be beneficial to the community in which she lived. Some of these projects advocated were: Improvement and assistance in various communities, Medical inspection and a school nurse in schools, Building of a Hospital, and Building of a Home for the Aged. She also assisted in the institution of Branches in Lakeview, Corinth, Sparta, Union, North Yarmouth, and Port Burwell.

In 1926 Mr. and Mrs. Winder sold their store to Lorne and Hazel McCallum and took up residence in Aylmer. As a member of St. Paul's Church Mrs. Winder worked faithfully in the various organizations, particularly among the children. She passed away in the Church in 1949, three years after the death of her husband. Two daughters survive: Mrs. J.A. Irvine and Mrs. P.R. Locke.

During both World wars she was an active member of the Red Cross and at the time of her death she was President of the Women's division of the Aylmer and East Elgin Agricultural Society and Provincial representative for the counties of Essex, Kent, and Elgin in the Ontario Fall Fairs Association.



Ontario Tea Party: 1907

W.I. OFFICERS



MRS. WILLIAM BOYES

Jean S. Boyes was a charter member, and a life member of the Lyons' Women's Institute that was organized in 1908.

Mrs. Boyes was born in West Nissouri Township, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Fairweather and came to Lyons with her husband, William, in 1904. Her family included one son, William Boyes of Weston, and two daughters, Miss Jean Boyes of Hamilton and Mrs. Harry (Jessie) Gossard of Toronto. She also had one granddaughter, Mrs. Paul (Mary) Stager of Toronto.

After her husband's death in 1944, she moved into Aylmer and resided at 15 St. Andrews Street

As an active member of Aylmer W.I. she became a Life Member of that Institute and a Life Member of East Elgin District.

Mrs. Boyes was a member of St. Pauls United Church, Aylmer where she taught the Bible Class for seven years. She was also a member of the U.C.W. of that Church and pieced many quilt tops by hand.

Mrs. Boyes died at Memoriam Hospital, St. Thomas at the age of 89, July 12, 1966, after being in ill health for 18 months. Burial was in the family plot in Clipperton Cemetery, West Nissouri Township.

**MR. GEORGE A. PUTNAM, 1904-1934**

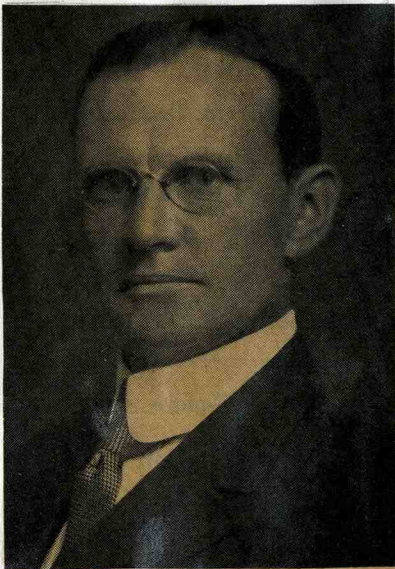
The name of George A. Putnam B.S.A. became closely interwoven into the story of Women's Institutes during the thirty years from 1904 to 1934 in which he was its Superintendent. In his long term of office he saw the gradual development of the organization grow in numbers from 5,433 to 42,000 members.

Mr. Putnam was a native of Elgin County and after his graduation from Aylmer High School took a business course and later joined the staff of the Ontario Agricultural College as registrar, and secretary to the President of that institution. He remained at the College for twelve years until his appointment as Superintendent of Women's Institutes of Ontario.

The Institute was originally a rural homemakers' organization, but it was not long before women of vision and earnestness saw that they had a responsibility and opportunity in addition to their home duties. Community-housekeeping demanded their attention, and they began to take an active interest in schools, libraries, neglected cemeteries, relief, civic improvement and other projects which require the co-operation of the whole community.

The greatest latitude was allowed the officers and members with the result that many original ideas were developed into fine community enterprises.

Mr. Putnam very wisely used the information coming to his office as a basis for special consideration. He excelled in program planning and secured for the local Institutes and conventions qualified instructors and lecturers, thus developing through this method an organization which provided an opportunity for individual growth, increasing home efficiency; introducing co-operative methods, establishing high standards for community activities and providing better facilities for education, amusement and social intercourse and service.



**MR. GEORGE A. PUTNAM**  
1904-1934

**Geo. A. Putnam was the uncle of Lee Putnam. He was raised at Lyons and walked to Aylmer to High School.**



WESLEYAN  
METHODIST  
CHURCH.  
A. D. MDCCLXVI.



A MEETING OF THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF SPRINGFIELD AND LYONS AT THE LYONS METHODIST CHURCH, 1914.

STANDING IN THE DOOR IS MR. GEORGE PUTNAM, ORIGINALLY FROM LYONS, AND FOR MANY YEARS DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTES IN ONTARIO. (Gift of Professor and Mrs. John Hall Stewart, 1977.)



MRS. EARL BAGNALL

Mary Louise Glenn lived on the Wellington Road near Glanworth and received her education at S.S.No.14 Westminster.

Following her marriage to Earl Bagnall of St.Mary's,they made their home at Lyons.Three daughters were born to Mr.&Mrs.Bagnall-Mary(Mrs.Chris Pearson),Kathleen(Mrs.Clarence Bruce),and Janet (Mrs.George Wood).

In 1932 Mrs. Bagnall joined and became active in the Lyons Women's Institute and was president in 1940-41,secretary-treasurer for six years,and president again from 1947-1949.She also served as District Director ,and helped in the organization of the Elgin County Museum,She also gave leadership to seven 4H Clubs.

In district work of the W.I.Mrs Bagnall served as second vice-president for two years,first vice-president for one year,and then District president for East Elgin in the years 1955 to 1957.She went on to be a member of the Board of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario for the years 1957 to 1959.

During the war years Mrs.Bagnall was very active in Red Cross work- sewing and making jam for overseas.

Nov.12,1925

An open meeting of the Lyons' Institute was held in the form of a Masquerade recently. In spite of the stormy weather, about 150 were present most of them being masked.

Mr. George Stewart, of Springfield, acting as chairman for the evening, opened the meeting with a few well-chosen words. A Guessing Contest then followed. Marjorie Tapsell winning first prize, and James Kingwell, the booby. The Pumpkin Centre Choir, consisting of Misses Helen Winder, Reeta Tapsell, Vera McNeil, Kathleen Mahon and Agnes Mitchell, favoured with an opening song to the tune of "Howdy Do."

The judges, Mrs. Eugene Sweet, Mrs. O. Derrough and Mr. G. Stewart then began judging the costumes which were many and pretty. Miss Reeta Tapsell received the ladies' prize for being the best dressed. She was dressed as Little Bo-Peep. For the best represented Mrs. C. Mahon, and Mrs. L. McNeil, dressed as Nuns were tie. The prize for the comic dress was given to Agnes Mitchell.

In the gentleman's class, Marguerite McCallum dressed as Jiggs received the prize. Charles Putnam and Charles Moore receiving the other prizes. Jack Putnam was the best dressed in the children's class.

Miss F. Hayward then gave a splendid reading which was heartily enjoyed. Immediately after this the quartette including Vera McNeil, Kathleen Mahon, Helen Winder and Agnes Mitchell favoured with a couple of comic songs.

A silver collection amounting to over \$9 was taken. Lunch was then served.

At the close of the meeting, Mrs. J. W. Boyes moved a vote of thanks to the judges and chairman, also to the girls who had so ably prepared the programme and decorated the hall for the occasion.

OFFICERS OF LYONS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Year	President	Secretary
1908-09	Mrs. E. Winder	Miss Agnes Mitchell
1909-10	Mrs. W. Boyes	Miss Agnes Mitchell
1910-11	Mrs. W. Boyes	Mrs. C. H. Putnam
1911-12	Mrs. Adams	Mrs. C. H. Putnam
1912-13	Mrs. Adams	Mrs. Wm. Boyes
1913-14	Mrs. A Ferris	Mrs. W. McCredie
1914-15	Mrs. W. Whyte	Mrs. W. McCredie
1915-16	Mrs. W. Eaton	Mrs. J.C. Simpson
1916-17	Mrs. A. Ferris	Mrs. J.C. Simpson
1917-18	Mrs. J. Garton	Mrs. Mary V. Whyte
1918-19	Mrs. George Demaray	Mrs. Mary V. Whyte
1919-20	Mrs. S.B. Simpson	Mrs. Harold Sawyer Miss M. Harper
1920-21	Mrs. S.B. Simpson	Mrs. Charles Putnam
1921-22	Mrs. O. Chalk	Miss Ruby Wright
1922-23	Mrs. L. Pettit	Miss Dorothy Mitchell
1923-24	Mrs. L. Pettit	Miss Dorothy Mitchell
1924-25	Mrs. W. Boyes	Mrs. A. Ferris
1925-26	Mrs. B.Brackenbury	Vera McNeil
1926-27	Mrs. Clayton Simpson	Mrs. H. Johnson
1927-28	Mrs. Mary Whyte	Mrs. W.J. Boyes
1928-29	Mrs. Mary Whyte	Mrs. W.J. Boyes
1929-30	Mrs. C.H. Putnam	Mrs. Jean Boyes
1930-31	Mrs. C.H. Putnam	Mrs. Nellie Burks
1931-32	Mrs. C.H. Putnam	Mrs. A. Ferris
1932-33	Mrs. O. Chalk	Mrs. A. Ferris
1933-34	Mrs. Mahon	Mrs. A. Ferris
1934-35	Mrs. J. Connor	Mrs. A. Ferris
1935-37	Mrs. J. C. Simpson	Mrs. A. Ferris
1937-38	Mrs. J. C. Simpson	Mrs. A. Lindsay
1938-39	Mrs. Lloyd McCallum	Mrs. C. Ferris
1939-40	Mrs. Lloyd McCallum	Mrs. C. Ferris
1940-41	Mrs. E. Bagnall	Mrs. C. Ferris
1941-42	Mrs. George Leal	Mrs. C. Ferris
1942-44	Mrs. A. Ferris	Mrs. E. Bagnall
1944-45	Mrs. A. Ferris	Mrs. E. Bagnall
1945-46	Mrs. G. Leal	Mrs. E. Bagnall



Year	President	Secretary
1946-47	Mrs. K. Widner	Mrs. E. Bagnall
1947-49	Mrs. E. Bagnall	Mrs. W.F. Burks
1949-50	Mrs. E. Green	Mrs. C.A. Baxter
1950-52	Mrs. C.E. Martin	Mrs. C.A. Baxter
1952-53	Mrs. Clayton Franklin	Mrs. C.A. Baxter
1953-56	Mrs. Don Irish	Mrs. C.A. Baxter
1956-59	Mrs. A. Dennis	Mrs. Lloyd George
1959-62	Mrs. C. McCallum	Mrs. Lloyd George
1962-63	Mrs. C. McCallum	Mrs. Don Irish
1963-65	Mrs. Lloyd George	Mrs. Don Irish
1965-66	Mrs. Lloyd George	Mrs. Freeman Parker
1966-67	Mrs. Grace Forrest	Mrs. Freeman Parker
1967-71	Mrs. Alvin Jacklin	Mrs. Freeman Parker
1971-72	Mrs. Alvin Jacklin	Mrs. C. McCallum
1972-75	Mrs. Don Irish	Mrs. C. McCallum
1975-77	Mrs. Freeman Parker	Mrs. C. McCallum
1977-79	Mrs. Sander Vandehoef	Mrs. Freeman Parker

Year	Leader & Club	Members
1978	Mrs. Cecil Baxter Mrs. Florence McCallum - Featuring Fruit	Betty DeKraker Marjorie Dykxhoorn Betty Kaastra Ena Kaastra Ida Kaastra Nell Kaastra Janice McCallum Nancy McCallum Tracy Stover Karen VanRooijen
1978	Jackie Van Ryswyk Mrs. Cecil Baxter - Needle Point	Diane Baxter Betty Kaastra Grace Kaastra Josephine Versteegen Diana Sterenberg Joan VanRyswyk Nell Kaastra Betty DeKraker
1979	Jackie Van Ryswyk - Essential Edibles	Betty DeKraker Betty Kaastra Grace Kaastra Nell Kaastra Diana Sterenberg Karen VanRooijen Joan VanRyswyk Jackie VanRyswyk Josephine Versteegen Jennifer Westerterp

Although the Lyons' Institute ceased to exist in June 1979, the Homemaking Clubs continue on their own under capable leaders. This would indicate that the influence of this work over the years will be felt in the homes of today and tomorrow. Thanks to all leaders and participants.

4 H CLUBS