

" RODNEY BRANCH of WOMEN'S INSTITUTES -- YEARS 1911 - 1916. "

Reported by

Mrs. Olivia Schmid Tough.

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1911 - 1912

During the year 1911 - 1912 the officers were :

President - Mrs. Eggert,  
Secretary-Treasurer - Mrs. McLevey,

Talks and Demonstrations were the special features of this period. Those given during 1911 - 1912 were :

"Cucumber and Melon Culture" - - Mrs. Alec Kelly,  
"Friendship" - - Miss J. Watson,  
"How to Behave When a Guest" - - Mrs. E.G. Lusty,  
"Effect of Little Things" - - Mrs. J. Kelly,  
"Bread-making" - - Mrs. D.M. Gillies,  
"Cereals" - - Miss Goldies,  
(This was taken by a representative of the Quaker  
Oats Co.)  
"White Slave Traffic" - - Mrs. L. Mistele,  
"Music in the Home" - - Miss M. Buchan,  
"Candy-making" - - Mrs. M. White,  
"Care of Milk" - - Mrs. A. Purcell,  
"Culture of Small Fruits" - - Mrs. L. Ferguson,  
"Defects in Butter-making" - - Mrs. McNichol,

Music was supplied by the following :

Mrs. B.B. Graham, Miss Gladys McGregor, and Mrs. A.D. McGugan.

In January 1912, an evening meeting was held, with Dr. and Mrs. Wilson as the Speakers.

\$500.00 was voted towards the building of a Grandstand.

1912 - 1913

The same executive was returned to office.

Programmes included the following Talks and Music :

"Summer Diet" - - Mrs. George Gray,  
"Sociability" - - Miss M. Gillies,  
"House Plants" - - Mrs. N. Ludy,  
"Punch-making" - - Mrs. S.B. Morris,  
"Work and Recreation" - - Mrs. Whelan,  
"Cake-making" - - Mrs. J. Kelly,  
"Care of the Sick" - - Mrs. Croolston,  
"Good Form in Public Places" - - Mrs. Bisnett,  
"Hurry, Worry and Waste in Housekeeping" - - Mrs. Brethour,



The new President was Mrs. A.D. McGugan, with Mrs. McLevey still the Secretary-Treasurer.

This was to become one of the most vital years in the history of the society and the most able leadership was very important.

Such meetings as we have recorded previously had been a preparation for the necessary sacrifices and hard work that the First World War was to impose upon us as a society, and as individuals.

At the August meeting a letter was read from Mr. N. Marshall of the Red Cross Society, and asking the Institute to take over the Red Cross work in this community.

Genuine patriotism was shown, and money which would have been used to send delegates to Convention, was turned into Red Cross Funds, as was also the Fair Prize money.

A Patriotic Concert was arranged promptly, which was a great success.

Each member was asked to donate pillows, and to sell flags on Fair Day. Special meetings were held very often in order to get organization functioning, and money on hand, to work with.

As early in the War as November 1914 a Tea was held in the Council Chambers to raise special money for the Homeless Belgians; also groups were busy making over used clothing to forward to those in need. This was done in the Council Chambers. Condensed Milk was bought and sent by the Citizens of Rodney, for Belgian babies through the society.

At every meeting money was voted to Red Cross; amounts averaging \$19.00, in addition to quilts, soldiers' outfits, etc.

1915 - 1916

Mrs. Bisnett took over the Presidency, with Mrs. McLevey still the able Secretary-Treasurer.

The money raised for war uses at this time was almost unbelievable.

Fruit was made into Jams, and Honey bought, for soldiers.

On Trafalgar Day \$50.00 was sent to the British Red Cross; \$60.00 to the Canadian Red Cross, and \$20.00 sent to purchase wool, in order that the women might make and send two pair of socks each to the local boys in Service.

Also, at the October meeting two important items were worth remembering for all time, namely : "Quote from Minutes" "The local Institute chose the half-hour between 8 and 8:30 A.M. to become a PRAYER CIRCLE, when our soldiers and sailors were presented at the Throne of Grace, each one for a three minute period." The Society planned to meet every Friday, instead of once a month to do Red Cross Work.

Mr. McVicar gave a free Auction Sale. Mr. Chasely donated 75% of the proceeds of 2 Pictures played at the local Show. Richards Soap Co. offered .50¢ per 100 for wrappers collected. Mrs. N. Ludy embroidered a sheet which was sold to raise funds. An Autographed Quilt was made with a .10¢ charge for each name put on. Papers and old rubber were collected. Thirty-four women took time to take a nursing course given by Dr. Annabel McEwen. Twelve suits of pyjamas were made and bought with their own funds every month.

The regular monthly meetings were not neglected at this time, nor the interest in the Cemetary or Library.

Bulletins from the Department of Agriculture, talks and

music being part of all meetings.

An Auxiliary was formed to do Social Work among the families of Service-men in this locality.

I consider it a privilege to have been asked to report on these very active five years of service rendered to the community.

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Mrs. Olivia Schmid Tough.

" RODNEY BRANCH of WOMEN'S INSTITUTES -- YEARS 1917 - 1922. "

Reported by  
Mrs. Agnes Leibner.

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1917 - 1918

The Executive in charge of affairs in April 1917 was,

President	- Mrs. A.E. Bisnett,
First Vice-President	- Mrs. B.B. Graham,
Second Vice-President	- Mrs. C.A. Wray,
Secretary-Treasurer	- Mrs. G.A. McLevey,

The early years of this period were largely devoted to War Work, when the women of Rodney really excelled themselves in service rendered. Knitting, sewing and quilting to raise cash, was continuously going on. Quilts were quilted at \$1.00 each, and for RED CROSS purposes during the Institute year 1917 - 1918, \$1,188.00 was raised by 58 members.

At that same time, they worked with the men of the Town, sponsoring the CHATAQUA. During the three days it ran in February 1918, lunches were served, and \$235.82 raised.

The Halifax Explosion happened at that time, and many articles were gathered and sent, along with \$36.48, to sufferers there.

For a change, the annual picnic went to the EAU.

1918 - 1919

The Picnic during this summer was turned into a GARDEN PARTY, held in the Park. The proceeds were used for Red Cross supplies.

At one meeting, a resolution was passed recommending and unanimously favouring compulsory education to the age of 16, and absolute use of English in Elementary Schools.

A Strawberry Social, in the Park provided money to be used in lighting the Park.

A Vacuum Cleaner was purchased, and kept in the office of Mr. Shaw. This was rented to all comers at .25¢ per hour, or \$1.00 a day.

#### 1919 - 1920

The Secretary wrote a letter to each man as he returned from Overseas, welcoming him home, and promising that a fitting reception would be held later. Watches were given these men.

\$1,130.48 was raised and spent for Soldiers' boxes, India Famine Sufferers, Serbian Relief, St. Thomas Children's Aid, Convalescent Soldiers at London, French Red Cross, Prisoners of War and Canadian Red Cross.

In addition to all this, a fund for a Community Hall in Rodney was started and \$70.10 deposited in the Union Bank for the purpose.

Also, a systematic canvas of the village was made, in order to form a Horticultural Society.

There were 67 members.

#### 1920 - 1921

Girl Guides started in Rodney, with the Council chosen from Womens' Institute members, which ruling still exists.

A meeting was held in the Council Chambers, for all interested in the Memorial Park project. Cash for that purpose \$405.06, was used to buy bonds "for the present" as it was not needed at the time.

In November, a committee interviewed the Council regarding a Soldiers' Memorial.

The membership was 53.

These women also sponsored a Lyceum Series of Concerts, which were a great success.

" THE GIRL GUIDE COUNCIL "

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(about June 1920)

President	- Mrs. H.M. Thomson,
Vice-President	- Mrs. D.G. McPherson,
Secretary-Treasurer	- Mrs. W.H. Brubacher,
Guide-Mother	- Mrs. Margaret Bisnett,

" THE COUNCIL "

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Mrs. Dorland,	Mrs. McGugan,
Mrs. Paterson,	Mrs. Liebner,
Mrs. Davies,	Mrs. McLevey,
Mrs. Walker,	Mrs. P. Miller,
Mrs. Crawford,	Mrs. J.J. Kistele,
Mrs. Eggert,	Mrs. Hessehauer,
Mrs. Murray,	Mrs. A. Grey,
Mrs. Clemens,	Mrs. D. Campbell,
Mrs. Falconer,	Mrs. Janaway,
Mrs. Wray,	Mrs. Katzenmeyer,
Miss Martini,	

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