



Rodney Womens Institute celebrated its 70th Anniversary in the United Church Sunday School Rooms on June 29th., 1976, with 80 members and friends from West Elgin Institutes as guests. Mrs. A. Brown welcomed the other Branch members and Officers who came from a distance-- Mrs. Edith Smith, a former President from London; Mrs. Elias Reck from St. Thomas, West Elgin President; Mrs. Gow and Mrs. McAdams, two Past Presidents of West Elgin Institutes.

The President, Mrs. Earl Keutch, presided for the program meeting and opened by singing the Institute Ode, repeating Mary Stewart Collect and Lord's Prayer in unison. Members were pleased to have two of our eldest members present; Mrs. Mary Plyley, now a resident of Elgin Manor and Mrs. Clinton Campbell, who has been unable to attend regularly. Mrs. Bessie McMillan was unable to be present. She has been a faithful worker for years and is the only Life member. Mrs. Mary Downie, who has been ill, was able to attend.

Musical numbers presented were; two Glockenspiel solos by Mrs. Don Byers, accompanied on piano by her mother, Mrs. Marybelle Martin. An excellent piano Instrumental by Beth Miller; two lovely vocal solos by Mrs. George (Mabel) Sales of Ridgetown accompanied by Mrs. Clapham, all of which were enjoyed by everyone. Greetings from West Elgin Branches were brought by Mrs. Elias Reck and Mrs. Gow.

The guest speaker, Mrs. Earl Morden, Secretary-Treasurer of the Federated Womens Institutes of Ontario, gave a fine report of the Convention of F.W.I.C. held in Charlottetown, P.E.I. with the theme "Facing our Challenge - Unity is Strength". Four day provided delegates with a picturesque trip of the ruby, emerald and sapphire Island.

Mrs. A. Brown thanked Mrs. Morden, those who provided musical numbers; the U.C.W. members of the Church who helped; and all who helped to make the Anniversary a success.

The Tea Table was decorated with a hand-made lace cloth, gold and blue candles; bowl of blue and gold flowers. The Anniversary Cake was beautifully decorated with the emblem of W.I. on the icing. Mrs. Mary Plyley cut the cake.

A social hour was spent renewing friendships and making new friends. It was a wonderful Anniversary Day.

*Bessie McMillan Sec. Treas.*

*Mary Keutch President*



1977

The March meeting of the Rodney Branch of Womens' Institute was held in the Adult Social Centre on March 17th. The President, Mrs. Earl Keutch, presided and the meeting opened by the repeating of Ode and Mary Stewart Collect. Roll call was answered by nine members. Minutes were read and adopted.

It was moved and seconded that Mary Keutch be presented with a Life Membership in recognition of her work in the Womens' Institute; the Institute to pay for membership --Mrs. Wilfred McMillan donating the pin.

Mrs. Harriet Brown returned \$5.00 left in the Remembrance Fund. It was moved by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. McMillan that we disband the Womens' Institute in Rodney. This motion was carried with regret expressed by everyone as there have been many enjoyable and profitable times in the past 71 years Institute has been in Rodney.

Moved by Mary Downie and seconded by Harriett Brown that we give \$5.00 to Pennies for Friendship at the District Annual. Carried.

Moved by Maribel Miller and seconded by Mrs. Brown that we have a dinner at Town and Country, West Lorne, on March 29th. Carried.

Moved by Mrs. McMillan and seconded by Mary Downie that the balance of the funds be given to the District.

Mary Keutch gave a report of District Officers Meeting. The District Annual to be held on May 18th. with Cowal Institute as hostess.

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On April 25th a meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Earl Keutch with Elgin West Womens' Institute President, Mrs. Elias Reck; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Bruce McMillan and Federated Representative, Mrs. Russell Campbell, as guests.

Meeting opened with Mrs. Keutch presiding. The Institute Ode was sung, followed by Mary Stewart Collect in unison. Mrs. Keutch welcomed the guests and thanked them for coming to officially disband the Rodney Branch.

Minutes of the last meeting were read by acting Secretary, Mrs. Mary Downie. Adopted.

Mrs. Reck then presided and explained some of the rules for a Branch disbanding with suggestions from Mrs. Russell Campbell and Mrs. McMillan.

Our Tweedsmuir History has been given to the Library and this was approved by the Officers. Students or others wishing to read it can go to the Library where it will be kept.

1977

Motion was made by Harriett Brown and seconded by Mrs. Nettie Newhouse of the Official disbanding of the Rodney Branch of Womens' Institute. Carried.

Moved by Bessie McMillan, seconded by Harriett Brown, that we donate \$25.00 to the Erland Lee Home. Carried. The balance of account will be sent to the District Secretary-Treasurer. Then our bank account will be closed.

Moved by Mary Downie, seconded by Bessie McMillan, that the meeting be adjourned.

A social hour followed and lunch was served by Maribel Miller, Marybelle Martin and Nettie Newhouse.

After 71 years, our Rodney Womens' Institute is disbanded.

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*Mary Downie Assistant Sec Treasurer*  
*Mary Kutch - President*



CENTURY FARMS IN ALDBOROUGH TOWNSHIP

November, 1969.

(1)

Present owner: JAMES WILLIAM PATTERSON, his wife and four children. The farm is located on lots 5 & 6 of concession 8, on Back Street about one mile out of Rodney. The great-grandfather, Donald Patterson, and his son, Lachlan, were the original owners and they came from Argyleshire, Scotland in 1818. The farm consisted of 300 acres at that time but now only 100 acres are held and it is devoted to general farming with emphasis on livestock. The first owners are buried in Patterson Cemetery which is on the farm but is a public cemetery.

(2)

Present owner: MRS. AGNES FORD WEST (widow of Norman Ford) and sons Mac and Thomas. The farm is on Highway 3, Lot B. The original owner was the great-grandfather of Norman Ford, Thomas Ford, who came originally from Edinburgh, Scotland in 1774, settling first in Vermont, and coming to Aldborough Township in 1818 with his wife, Altha. They lost a little girl and buried her on the farm, - this was the beginning of the Ford Cemetery. The farm now consists of 150 acres and is devoted to general farming.

(3)

Present owner: MAURICE MISTELE, his wife and four children. The farm is located on Highway 3 between New Glasgow and Eagle. The original owner, Gottfried Mistele, came from the Niagara Peninsula and settled here in 1853, having come earlier from Germany. There were only 50 acres in the farm at that time but it now consists of 200 acres and is devoted to the raising of beef cattle and chickens, and growing feed for them - no cash crops are grown.

(4)

Present owner: PHILIP SCHLEIHAUF and his wife Mae. His grandfather, Christopher Schleihauf came from Germany and settled here with his wife in the year 1860. The farm now consists of 150 acres and is devoted chiefly to the growing of tobacco and raising Hereford cattle.

(5)

Present owners: MISSES TENA AND MARIA McLEAN. The farm is located on Back Street, just outside the Rodney town limits.

(6)

Present owner: DOUGLAS McMILLAN, his wife and two small children. The farm is located at Taylor on Lot B, Concession 8, Aldborough Township. The original owner was John Graham, a native of Argyleshire, Scotland, who owned it from 1854 to 1890. His son, Benjamin B. Graham held it from 1890 until 1905, and his sister, Mrs. Duncan (Flora Graham) McMillan, from 1905 to 1916 when it was taken over by her son, Wilfred B. McMillan who farmed it from 1916 until 1967. His son, Douglas McMillan inherited it from his father and now lives there with his wife, Shirley, and a small son and daughter.

The family has in their possession the original copy of the Deed of said land, with a certified copy of the record of the Crown Patent dated July 13th, 1854, to John Graham for 200 acres being composed of Clergy Reserve, Lot B on the 8th concession of Aldborough. Farming on this land consists primarily of growing corn and soybeans and the raising of cattle.

*This survey was done by  
Mrs. Lobb & Mrs. Downie.*

- TAYLOR -

The Canada Southern Railroad was built through Taylor in 1873 and was later leased to the Michigan Central Railroad - still later it was incorporated into the New York Central System.

The Railroad also owned one hundred acres of land at Taylor where there was a station with a day and night operator, pump house, water tank, and over a dozen houses, - also a general store.

Mr. Wm. Nickleson ran the pump for filling the water tank, and H. Keutch and R. Stickles looked after the water troughs for taking up water on trains without the train stopping. The troughs were later taken to West Lorne.

Taylor was a very industrious centre with four passenger trains daily, - mail was picked up there for Kintyre post office.

There were two busy stave mills, one owned by D. Waugh, and the other by Mr. R. Whitehead. The elm logs were brought to the mills by wagons or sleighs drawn by horses, cut into bolts, steamed, and made into barrel staves. They were shipped by rail for the most part, but some were taken to Port Glasgow and shipped by boat. They were made into barrels for sugar, salt, flour, meat, and apples.

There were two side tracks from the main line of the railroad, one running south to the mills and one north for loading cordwood and gravel.

There was a scarcity of water for the railroad so the company had a pond dug 200 ft. wide and 400 ft. long and 10 ft. deep to furnish an ample supply. The clay they dug out was

used for the bottom of the road bed for a double track of railroad. There was also gravel on the north half of the hundred acres they owned, so they had steam shovels load it onto cars and it was used as fill for part of the large railroad bridge at St. Thomas.

As time went on the station at Taylor was moved away, also a number of the houses. Most of the young boys for miles around learned to swim in the pond at Taylor, and today, in 1955, the boys still go there to swim. When water was no longer required by the railroad the New York Central stocked it with fish.

Families living around Taylor in the early 1900's were Dugald Walker, Peter Graham, and John Graham, - later D. McMillan, T. Broadbent, L. Lalonde, the Fords, J. Munroe, D. McCallum, the Bandeens, J. Haynes, J. Roberts, H. Mann, and D. Patterson. Some of the descendants of these families still live on the same farms.

Frank Graham



## HISTORY OF TOBACCO

Commercial production of tobacco began about the year 1800 in the Counties of Essex and Kent. By the year 1850 - 750,000 lbs. was grown in this area. This tobacco was air cured in long barns. Flue cured tobacco was introduced to Canada in the year 1900. Many of the people who pioneered the growing of tobacco in Ontario were from the South western States. Along with the Americans came families from many Countries from Europe. The prospect of large profits from the (green gold) attracted people from all over the world.

Fortunes were made in real estate deals and in equipping farms almost over night. In the County of Elgin and in our own Township of Aldborough the production of flue cured tobacco started in 1925 when the total production for Ontario was 4½ million lbs. After the war in 1945 emigrants started coming to Canada, a great number of them settled in Ontario in the tobacco belt along Lake Erie. What used to be one time worthless sand land became the highest priced soil in the area. These farms were purchased for \$10,000.00 for 100 acre general farm. After they were equipped for tobacco the same farms sold for \$50,000.00 and up.

In 1959 The Ontario Flue cured tobacco grower's marketing board was formed. Tobacco growing rights were issued to those applying for them according to lands and equipment. The membership of this board is 4600 growers. In 1959 this tobacco board built three new ware houses in Aylmer, Tillsonburg and Delhi. All Ontario tobacco must be sold through these ware houses. It is sold by the reverse dutch clock system which replaces the barn buying. This is the most modern way of marketing. In 1971 the production of flue cured tobacco was 201 million lbs. and it sold for an average price of 65¢ per lb. In the Township of

Aldborough we have 215 tobacco farms and 3100 acres of tobacco was planted on these farms in 1971.

*Written by Andy Cipeu.*



Old Method



New Machine for handling Leaves.