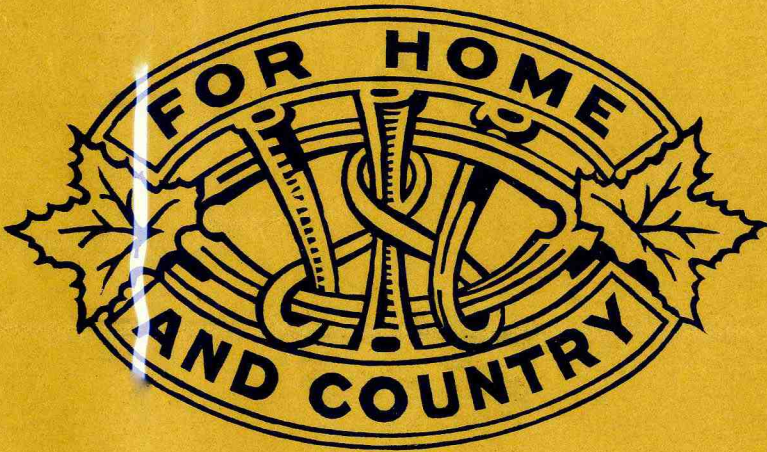


TWEEDSMUIR VILLAGE HISTORY



THE SOUTH YARMOUTH BRANCH OF THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

(This history compiled in the  
years 1950-51)

## A TRIBUTE TO THE FIRST CURATOR OF OUR TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY BOOKS.

When the idea of a Tweedsmuir History was first adopted by the South Yarmouth Women's Institute, an Historical Research Committee was appointed with Miss Edna B. Scott as convenor. It is to Miss Scott that the South Yarmouth Women's Institute is indebted for their two volumes of Tweedsmuir History Books. While others on the committee assisted, it was, undoubtedly, Miss Scott's intense interest and inspiration and many hours of untiring effort that created them and the South Yarmouth members are very proud of her achievement. She remained Curator of the <sup>her</sup> histories until failing health required/to resign that position.

At the time of her death, August 21, 1965, Mrs. J. R. Futcher, in her Museum News, of the St. Thomas Times Journal, paid the tribute to Miss Scott, as follows:

" Museists of the county were saddened by the recent death of Miss Edna Scott of Union. Miss Scott was historical research convenor of the South Yarmouth Women's Institute for many years. During that time she painstakingly compiled a Tweedsmuir History of her community. It is one of the finest in the county and will always be a source of accurate reference to the families of the Union district. When the suggestion was made in 1954 of taking a step further than local histories by establishing a county museum, Miss Scott did all she could to promote the project and was a loyal and devoted worker as long as she was able.

When the Museum became a reality, her artistic and clever fingers did much to give it its present appeal. For two winters she helped cut and roll wool rags into balls, using the most colorful wool pieces she could find. These were woven into the

sitting-room carpet that is standing so well to the tread of many feet. This room was her special pride. Miss Scott made the drapes at the windows from old material. She searched for and found the old wooded poles with brass ends for the drapes, as well as large brass fings they hang from.

So many attractive places at the Museum are the result of her initiative and effort. We are grateful for the loyalty and interest of friends like Miss Edna Scott . They made our dream of a Museum a reality."

Also we are much indebted to the late Mr. Murray Scott, brother of Miss Scott, formerly a photographer of many years in St.Thomas. He made copies of many of the pictures and mounted them by his own special process, in the pages of our histories.

*Ellen Russ  
Curator. S. J. W. I.*



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## THE INDIANS OF THE DISTRICT

To the French under the leadership of Champlain we owe the discovery of this part of Canada and it was in the year 1615 that Champlain found an Indian race called the "Neutrals", so called because of their neutrality towards the Hurons, north of them and the Iroquois to the East and the south of them.

The Neutrals were described as living in what is now Southwestern Ontario, West of Niagara and east of Detroit and is sometimes described as the "banana belt of Canada".

The Jesuit fathers, Brebeuf and Chaumot, during their sojourn with the Neutrals in the winter of 1640 - 41, found it to be a land of plenty, the weather being much milder than that of the Huron country farther north, there being only from eighteen inches to three feet of snow. Also there was an abundance of all kinds of game, elk, deer, bears, wild cats, wolves, squirrels, beaver and other animals valuable for their skins and flesh. They reported that these Indians cultivated maize or Indian corn, beans, pumpkins and tobacco. Chestnuts abounded and wild apples were larger than those in the Huron country. Flocks of wild turkeys and pigeons roamed the forests while wild ducks and geese covered the lakes and rivers, whose depths teemed with all kinds of fresh water fish.

The manners and customs, family and political government were very much as those of other Indian tribes but they were distinguished from the Hurons by their greater dissoluteness and indecency. On the other hand due to the productive and abundant country, they