

Wallacetown WI Officers 2006-2007

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Rep. to Elgin Co. Pioneer Museum: Helen VanBrenk

Cards and Cheers: Kay Lilley



2006.

from <sup>1</sup> Helen VanBrenk <sup>2</sup> Kathy  
Minnema, <sup>3</sup> Amarilsis Drouillard  
<sup>4</sup> Sally McIntyre, <sup>5</sup> Ruby Milgugan <sup>6</sup> Kay Lilley  
<sup>7</sup> Darlene Ford <sup>8</sup> Louie Lackey.

photos Taken on April 13<sup>th</sup> at the  
Annual Meeting.





## Memorial at Battle Hill for the War of 1812

SUBMITTED

Re-enactors read a list of casualties from the Battle of the Longwoods in 1814 before firing a musket salute on March 9. The Battle Hill memorial cairn will get a plaque listing the soldiers who fought and died in the battle. This may be the only plaque in Canada and the United States to list individual soldiers who died in a specific battle.

## Battle Hill memorial to get important plaque

Muskets were fired in memory of soldiers who died at a War of 1812 memorial service March 9, and their memories will continue to be honoured with a plaque of soldiers' names to be posted on the Battle Hill cairn.

Researchers have found all the names of those who died fighting for the British, while the list of fallen soldiers from the 24th U.S. Infantry is almost complete. Parks Canada has given permission to the Upper Thames Military Reenactment Society to post the list on the cairn.

"As far as I know, at least in Canada if not the United States, it will be the only battle memorial that lists the actual private soldiers who were killed," said Glenn Stott with the Reenactment Society.

The names of each soldier who fought are hard to find, especially for a war fought so long ago. Stott says many soldiers die unknown and forgotten.

"We honour our veterans from World War One and Two, and the Korean War, and the Peace Keepers, but we forget about the earlier wars, and the War of 1812 was certainly a significant one because it was the only one fought on Canadian soil," he said.

The memorial service March 9 was in remembrance of the Battle of the Longwoods, or Battle Hill, outside of Wardsville on Highway 2. Re-enactors dressed as members of the Royal Scots fired a musket salute for the fallen. A descriptive re-telling of the battle was read, along with the names of the casualties. Some people laid wreaths down to honour members of their families who fought in the war.

American re-enactors from Ohio attended the local memorial service for the first time.

Rob Trumbull came as the Commander of the re-created Langham Company of infantry.

"The Royal Scots, we've become friends with them through re-enacting. They invited us up for this. It worked out that we could make it even though we had to drive through a blizzard," said Trumbull, recalling how the heavy snowfall that weekend turned a four-hour drive into a seven-hour drive.

The plaque with the list of soldiers' names will be placed on the Cairn sometime after researchers are finished compiling names. Trumbull says his group has gone through national archives themselves looking for casualty lists.

"It's very hard to find actual names of these people who fell in these battles. They're out there in some way or another but it takes dedicated researchers or just plain luck to actually find them," he said.

After the service, re-enactors went to Wardsville United Church and were treated to soup and sourdough biscuits. Jim Kovach of West Lorne read a poem he wrote about the War of 1812.

"The rifles were loud. The cannons were louder. The soldiers fought well as they marched into hell," said Kovach. "Some died quickly from being shot. Others died slowly on a cold army cot. Many lost arms, legs, hands and eyes. We could not hear their mournful cries. Bleeding from wounds we will not know. The ground is now covered by the cold winter snow," he said.

A reenactment of the Battle of the Longwoods is held every year. This year's reenactment will be held May 3 and 4.

**ANNUAL BRANCH EDUCATIONAL ROSE CONVENOR'S REPORT  
YEAR ENDING MARCH 31st, 2006.  
Wallacetown Women's Institute**

Educational Rose Convenor

Kay Waite  
11047 Miller Road, R. R. 1  
Dutton, Ontario, N0L 1J0  
Tel. 519 762 5754

Successor

Same

N/B ----By secret vote in April 2005 we decided to go back to having meetings in February and March instead of July and August.

**AGRICULTURE**

Tour ----Corner Stone Genetics Farm, Steve and Janet Jones of R. R. 1 Dutton. Janet spoke about their "Texel" sheep while we walked among the sheep young and old.  
1 1/2 hour in length including question and answer period.

Motto ----What are the qualities that sheep have, that we have?

Roll Call -Name a breed of sheep that you know.

Discussion ---- Residents Xmas Party at the Bobier Villa.

---- Appoint a new treasurer.

---- District Annual at South Dunwich Community Hall. West Lorne and Wallacetown W.I. in charge.

---- Blue Hats for W.I. members.

**CANADIAN INDUSTRIES**

Display and Speakers ---- " Lake Erie Fisheries " by Jeep and Joyce Sutton, Wallacetown. Jeep spoke on the early days of the fishing industry, while Joyce showed artifacts and pictures.  
2 hours in length with many questions being answered.

Speaker and Dog ---- Mavis Bedford from Glencoe who is with the "Puppy Raiser Program" spoke on training Golden Retrievers or Labrador dogs for children with autism.  
1 hour in length.

Roll Call ---- Name your favourite " Sea Food "

Discussions ---- 50th anniversary to be catered to in June 2007.

---- Tickets handed out for Quilt raffle to be drawn for in December 2006.

**CITIZENSHIP AND LEGISLATION**

Speaker ----Wallacetown Fair 2004-2005 Ambassador Maryjo McWilliam spoke on her many activities she has been involved with over the past year as Ambassador.  
1 hour in length.

Tour ----Elgin Manor Home For The Aged by Melissa Lewis.  
3/4 of a hour including many questions being asked.

Roll Call ----If you were the Prime Minister, what would you change?

----What did you think of your tour , what area stood out the most in your mind?

Discussions ----Wallacetown Fair Display, who will do it---what articles have you got that could be used?

----Wallacetown Fair Dinner Menu.

----Who will go to the Coffee Break at the Elgin Pioneer Museum?

---- Who can go to the Bobier Villa Tea held the same day?

----The 60th Anniversary of one of our members.

**CONSUMER AND FAMILY AFFAIRS**

Speaker ----Rosemary Leitch of Wallacetown spoke on the topic " Kidney Failure and Current Treatment.  
1 hour in length followed by a question period.

Motto ---- Laugh and the world laughs with you  
Cry and you cry with your girlfriends.

Roll Call ----If you were asked, what advice would you give to new parents in raising their child?

Discussions ----Who will go to the London Area Convention in Mt. Brydges on October 4th?

----Donations approved.

----Bus trip to Forest Herb Farm and to a show at Victoria Playhouse in Petrolia being arranged by Darlene.



## EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL ACTIVITIES & TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY

Movie ----- " The Calendar Girls " produced by Yorkshire W. I. in England.

Speaker ----- " The Hat Lady ", Betty Simpson of Glencoe spoke on her many hats displayed, which she collected over the years.

1 1/2 hours in length.

----- Rev. Anna Berwick of the Anglican Church, Dutton spoke on "The Christmas Story"

1 hour in length.

Motto ----- "Grandma was a Girl!"

----- PROGRESS - is it good or bad?

Roll Call ----- A happy memory of your Grandmother.

----- What items do you read first in the newspaper.

----- Something to be "Thankful For".

----- Name an invention/convenience item brought into your home that no one else has mentioned.

Display ----- Tweedsmuir Books, Scrapbooks and House Logs.

Discussions - District Annual Meeting at South Dunwich Community Hall.

- Iona Willing Workers " Spring Coffee Break "

- Strawberry Social at Elgin Pioneer Museum.

- Tweedsmuir Workshop - August 9th at Dashwood.

- Bus trip to Toronto to see "Quilts, Quills and Bears".

## DONATIONS

- Pennies For Friendship

- 4 H Clubs --Wallacetown Club and McWilliam Horse Club.

-The Kidney Foundation.

-Daffodil - food bank, Dutton.

- Our Christmas Family.

- Baking, crafts & plants donated to Tea's and Bazaars for door prizes.

- Dutton & Dunwich Recreation Dept - toward Vertical Blinds for the South Dunwich Hall.

## ACTIVITIES

- Several members attended and worked at the District Annual held at the South Dunwich Community Hall on May 11th.

-North Yarmouth Townline 75th anniversary attended by President Helen Van Brenk and Darlene Ford.

-The Alymer Express 125th anniversary attended by President Helen Van Brenk.

-President Helen Van Brenk and Sally McIntyre attended the Bake Sale and Coffee Break put on by the Iona Willing Workers.

-We held a pot luck dinner and progressive euchre party for seniors in our community.

-We prepared and catered to the Wallacetown Fair Dinner.

-Sponsored a bus trip to Toronto to see the "Quilts, Quills and Bears Show".

- Also we sponsored a bus trip to the "Herb Farm " at Forest, after which we went to a show at the Victoria Playhouse in Petrolia. A donation was given to the Women's Institute from these bus trips.

-Members helped out at the Elgin Manor tuck shop, Bobier Villa, Elgin County Museum Tea's and Bazaars.

- We remembered the sick and shut-ins at home, nursing homes and hospitals at Christmas.

-Ruby McGugan donated two quilts - " The Grapevine Wreath " and the "Gaelic Garden "- which we are now selling tickets on with proceeds going to the South Dunwich Community Hall.

-We invited outsiders to many of our meetings where we had guest speakers.

- President Helen Van Brenk, Darlene Ford, Louie Lackey, Kathy Minnema and Kay Waite attended the Winter Picnic held at West Lorne on February 15th.

-London Area Convention was attended by President Helen Van Brenk, Louie Lackey, Kathy Minnema and Sally McIntyre.

-Ruby McGugan, Louie Lackey and Kathy Minnema helped quilt a quilt with a donation being given to the Wallacetown Women's Institute.

**Future Projects** - Our Quilt draw on Dec. 7th, 2006.

- Recruiting new members.

- Elgin County W.I. District Annual to be held in Wallacetown on May 15th, 2007.

**Highlights** - Having our 2004-2005 Wallacetown Fair Ambassador speak at our July barbecue.

**Memberships** - Backus Page House Museum.

- Elgin County Pioneer Museum.



## Memories of Growing up on the Farm Next Door

Given by- Alison Pearce at the Backus- Page Farm Show-September 2004

I spent the first 18 years of my life growing up on the farm next door and I would like to tell you of some memories I have of my father's way of farming. But before I do I have some interesting facts which my oldest sister Norine and I came across in a 1921 farm account book. Mother had recorded all money transactions for that year, two years after my parents were married. The year's expenses were \$2315.12, while incoming money totalled \$ 3084.09, leaving my parents with a profit of \$768.17 for the year. I'll mention some prices as I go along.

My father, Ernest Pearce like Uncle John, who lived across the road from us, carried out mixed farming which I believe was common to all farmers in the 30's and 40's but which now seems to have become almost a thing of the past due to the vastness of today's specialized farming. However, Dad raised a variety of animals and grew a variety of crops.

Many people used to drive by our place to view Dad's barns, his fields and crops and the vegetable and flower gardens which Mother and all of us so carefully tended.

Though Dad was a 4th generation Pearce, I truly believe that he was the "last of the pioneers." As a very young child, I remember tripping behind him many days in the early springtime in the field to the north of our property, the triangular field which runs north of the woods and over to the 9th concession. The trees had been cut some years before and the roots of the stumps had dried out enough to be burned. The stumps were chained and pulled out of the ground by Dad's team of horses and were burned later on in the field.

I think the first crop that he planted in that field was a crop of mangles (mangoes) or "roots" as they were often called. They were as round as a turnip but longer than a turnip and were used as additional feed to be cut up in the grain for the animals in the winter time. Like beets and carrots, they needed to be thinned by us when they first came out of the ground.

Pumpkins and squash had also been planted in that newly cleared field. I recall quite vividly picking them one early October evening, just as a huge harvest moon crept over the horizon, shedding its light on the final work of a farmer's long day. We brought them up to our cold cellar on the big wagon, the wagon that had numerous farm uses and was always drawn by a team of horses.

Today, I see so many of the old pieces of farm equipment on display here, which I recall Dad using.

I remember Dad ploughing his fields at first with a single furrow, steel bladed plow, where he walked behind the horse, always making it a long day. As a tiny tot I was overjoyed when he purchased a two furrow riding plough and I could then sit on his knee while he plowed.

During my years on the farm Dad always used a team of horses. He later invested in a tractor when my brother Frank returned from the two years he had spent in Agricultural College at Guelph. But Frank decided that farming was not for him and the farm was later sold. My parents retired to London in 1953 and the Hentz families have been living on the farm for the past fifty years.

No-one could have been more particular about machinery than Dad. He took pride in his implement shed where he kept his equipment year round. If he was working in the fields and it



Ruth  
Wight →

← Speaker -  
Alison Pearce.  
My Father's mixed  
farming 60 yrs ago.



looked as though it could possibly rain overnight, he would usually bring that particular implement up to the shed, so that it would not sit out in the rain and run the risk of becoming rusty. His implements were always prepared in the winter time and ready for use the minute the land was dry enough to work up with discs and harrows in the springtime. The fertilizer for which he paid \$36.55 in 1921, had been ordered and the seeds were ready well in advance. Dad watched the weather daily, I think almost hourly perhaps, as most farmers did. He was out on the land to plant, the first minute that he felt the weatherman was dictating him to do so.

Dad used a drill machine which had to be set according to the width of the rows for the grain he was planting. Wheat, oats and barley were much closer of course, than corn or beans. In September of that year he was paid \$1.25 for 85 bushels of wheat, while in February he was paid \$2 for 76 1/2 bushels of navy or white-beans. He always planted a field of red clover and counted on making additional money from that tiny but valuable seed. He had 5 1/4 bushels of clover which he sold for \$11 a bushel. Dad rotated his crop fields each year and always kept one field lying fallow.

Hay was first to be cut in June with a single blade riding mower. ( It cost 57 cents to sharpen the blade.) It was raked into long rows where it was pulled up to the wagon by a hay-loader attached to the back of the wagon. When I was old enough, I could drive the team of horses while two men, either Dad along with a hired man or my brother Frank, would spread the hay evenly on three slings which made up each wagon-load. The hay was then drawn up to the mow in the barn by means of pulleys and ropes, with the horses pulling one sling at a time as they were driven down to the foot of the bridge.

When we were all old enough to know how to handle a hoe (Dad sharpened them every morning), the whole family set out for the fields to hoe the weeds within the rows of corn and beans which the cultivator could not reach.

Although weed sprays came into use in the late 40's I do not believe that Dad ever used them. He was very particular about trying to keep weeds off his property and would use a sythe to cut pigweed, ragweed, or Queen Anne's lace at the roadside and around the rail fences. On several summer evenings after supper, he would take a flashlight and sack, walk back to the fields and comb them for sow-thistle. This was a deadly weed to him and one that could bring the price of a bushel of clover or grain down considerably, if their seeds were found in them.

Grain was cut with a binder as soon as it ripened in July. The sheaves were stooked and left to dry a bit, before they were brought into the barn to be threshed at the end of August.

It was always an exciting time when Jack Ross came into our laneway with his huge threshing machine. The first one that I remember was run by a steam engine. Dad had a pile of wood cut at the bottom of the bridge to be used to heat the water. Dad seemed to have little difficulty in rounding up the 12 men or so that it took for the day's threshing. Mother was known as an excellent cook and they liked the two hearty meals, complete with an assortment of pies which she always put before them. The men were assigned various jobs, either up in the mows, feeding the sheaves to the thresher, carrying the grain to the granary bins or outside in the barnyard where there were always two men forming the strawstack from the straw that was pouring out of the blower. In later years Mr. Ross used gasoline and a tractor. There always seemed to be a huge stream of back smoke billowing forth from it.



Grain had to be ground in the flour mill in Wallacetown which was owned and run by my uncle, Syd Turville. I would quite often ride up to Wallacetown with Dad on the wagon loaded with sacks and back again a few days later to pick up the bags of freshly ground grain. There was always a bag of very finely ground wheat for Mother which she used in the making of brown bread and muffins. In 1921 Dad paid \$104 for threshing and I see that Uncle Syd was paid \$42.15 in the month of January for grain to be ground.

Not too many years later Dad was able to purchase an electric grain grinder. The grain was put in it from the second floor of the barn and would come down a spout into the grinder to be ground into a bin on the first floor. It was mixed with roots and fed to the horses and cows in the big barn, or mixed with water and fed to the pigs in their troughs in the pig-shed.

Dad raised a number of baby beef cattle which were kept in the back of the barn in two large pens. He added fresh straw for their bedding every day and the cow and horse stalls were cleaned daily and freshly bedded with straw. The baby beef animals did not go out to pasture in the summer time or roam the barnyard in the winter time, as did the cows and horses. We usually had three or four cows which needed to be hand milked at different times of the year. The milk was separated in the basement of the house and the cream which was put in huge steel cream cans was picked up weekly by Frasers from Dutton, as well as the crates of eggs .

The records show that in January of 1921, Dad sold 5 pigs at 16 cents a pound and 5 lambs at 10 1/2 cents a pound. In March he sold 16 baby beef for 8 cents a pound .They averaged 590 pounds in weight.

While in April he sold 18 hogs and 19 more in July for 13 1/2 cents a pound. When he slaughtered a pig for our own use, much of it was stored in brine in large crocks in the cellar, while bacon and ham were smoked and hung by the chimney in the attic to dry. Mother would often render pork fat using it to make doughnuts in a large black pot.

From time to time Dad would hire men to help him. Records show that he paid one man \$1.25 for piling wood and \$ 1.00 to another for driving cattle to Dutton. I note that these same two men were paid between \$5.00 and \$20.00 in early summer and I wonder if that might have been to help Dad to dig and lay clay tiles which were used to drain the wettest parts of the fields. The farm account book also tells us that at one point in the year, a cow was sold to Hale's butcher shop in Dutton for \$65.

There were no freezers in those days and Mother canned a great deal of beef in quart sealers as well as chicken. With our help she could put on a meal for unexpected company in little over half an hour. Eventually there came to be a huge meat freezer in Dutton, where farmers could freeze their roasts and packages of meats, which they could pick up when the family needed staples from either one of the stores in Dutton. One wonders what Mother could buy for \$ 1.06 for groceries at Hockins. This was one of her shopping day entries.

In the springtime the brooder was brought up by the bridge of the barn. It was a small one-room wooden shed house, which the folks cleaned and prepared with a light blanket of straw. It was large enough to house about 400 day old baby chicks. The brooder was kept warm with a charcoal heater and over it was a large galvanized hood. The chicks were fed for several weeks until they were large enough to move out to the henhouse in early summer.



There were usually about 40 wee males and by September or October when these roosters were fully-grown, fried or roast chicken was the Sunday meal of the day. Nothing could be tastier for they were "free-range" and not force fed to mature in six weeks, as they are today.

It is difficult to believe that in 1921, Rennie's \$5.20 seed order produced a huge garden of vegetables, enough to feed a family of seven over the summer and as well, to preserve for the winter months ahead. The basement fruit closet was always overflowing by the fall with a variety of canned vegetables, pickles, fruits or jams and jellies. Sugar and flour were purchased by the 100 pound bag. In March, Mother paid Mr. Cameron the storeowner in Wallacetown, \$23 for 200 pounds of sugar. Apples, cabbages and celery were all stored in the cold room of the basement to be used later on in the winter.

I wonder how many of you here remember the winter of 1944-45? Dad was to have extensive hip surgery for arthritis and my brother Frank and I were kept out of school for the year to help Mother run the farm. It was a good thing we were! It was one of the worst winters on record. It snowed and snowed until the 10 foot banks were too high for the snowplows to do any more clearing. The roads were simply left to drift in and no vehicles got through from the beginning of December to the beginning of March. Because there was no thaw, our barn well did not hold enough water to water all of the animals and so Frank and I used to drive our cattle- about 10 to 12 of them- and 5 horses, on a daily basis across the road and back to the creek in Uncle John's farm. Here we would chop the ice to allow the animals to drink from the creek. Fences were taken down on our property as well as the Gow and Campbell properties so that we could take our cream and eggs to Wallacetown through the fields and woods, by sleigh. The road to Dutton had been kept open so that Fraser could pick them up in Wallacetown.

Now I cannot end my talk without telling you a little bit about Grandma Pearce. She was Sarah Anne Backus and was born here on June 16th, 1850, the year that her father, Andrew Backus built this house.

In the springtime when the sheep were shorn, Grandma Pearce was always given a fleece or two. I recall her painstakingly pulling out the oily, yellow tats, washing the fleece outside and laying it on the grass in the summer sunshine to dry and whiten. I was fascinated to watch her spin but do not remember her doing this after the age of 4 or so, nor do I know if she dyed the wool for the navy or burgandy mittens she presented to me on my birthday, in May. My parents took the fleece bundles to a woollen mill in Strathroy where they were sold. From time to time more blankets were made there for our own use.

Grandma Pearce died when she was almost 93. I think it must have been the last spring that she was alive when she expressed a desire to go back to the maple sugar bush to see the syrup as it was taken off. I can still see her yet- dressed in black as I always remember her to have been dressed, her shawl around her neck, sitting on the sleigh as it wove its way through the woods over some rather rough terrain, while the sap was being gathered into large wooden barrels on the sleigh. Later on she sat quietly and patiently by the boiler pans waiting for the word that the the syrup was ready to be taken off.

Growing up on a farm as I did, was an experience which I shall always cherish and I often feel as though I have had the best of two worlds. For the tranquillity and the beauty of country life as it is here today, the spirituality that one feels being so close to nature and with the songs of the birds, can never be surpassed in any of the towns or cities of today's busy world.



**OFFICERS  
2006 - 2007**

President - Helen Van Brenk  
Vice President - Kathy Minnema  
Secretary - Joan McLandress  
Assistant Secretary - Kathy Minnema  
Treasurer - Louie Lackey  
District Director - Helen Van Brenk  
Alternate District Director -  
Dorothea Monteith  
Rose Education co-ordinator - Kay Waite  
Branch Director - Gladys Graham  
Tweedsmuir Curator - Helen Van Brenk  
Auditors - Joan Johnston, Kay Waite  
Press Reporter - Kathy Minnema  
Rep. to Bobier Villa - Amarilis Drouillard  
Rep. to Elgin Manor - Joan McLandress,  
Joan Johnston  
Rep. to Elgin County Pioneer Museum -  
Helen Van Brenk  
Cards & Cheer - Kay Lilley

**Standing Committee Convenors**

Agriculture ..... Kay Lilley, Joan Johnston  
Canadian Industries. .... Darlene Ford  
Joan McLandress  
Citizenship & Legislation..... Sally McIntyre  
Consumer & Family Affairs ..... Darlene Ford  
Joan McLandress  
Educational & Cultural Activities ..... Kathy  
Minnema, Amarilis Drouillard  
Grandmother's Meeting ..... Louie Lackey  
International Affairs... Doris Barber, Kay Waite  
Tweedsmuir History ..... Helen Van Brenk

**MARY STEWART COLLECT**

Keep us, O Lord, from pettiness; let us  
be large in thought, word and deed.

Let us be done with fault-finding and  
leave off self-seeking.

May we put away all pretence and meet  
each other face to face, without self-pity  
and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgement  
and always generous.

Let us take time for all things; make us  
grow calm, serene, gentle.

Teach us to put into action our better  
impulses, straight forward and unafraid.

Grant that we may realize that it is the  
little things that create differences that in  
the big things of life we are one.

And may we strive to touch and know  
the great human heart common to us all,  
and O Lord, God, let us not forget to be  
kind.



**Wallacetown  
Women's Institute**

**PROGRAM**

**2006 - 2007**

**ELGIN COUNTY DISTRICT**

**Motto - "For Home and Country"**

**INSTITUTE GRACE**

We thank Thee Father for Thy Care  
Food, friends and kindness we share  
May we forever mindful be  
of Home and Country and of Thee.

**INSTITUTE ODE**

A goodly thing it is to meet  
In Friendship's circle bright,  
Where nothing stains the pleasure sweet,  
Nor dims the radiant light.  
No unkind word our lips shall pass  
No envy sour the mind:  
But each shall seek the common weal -  
The good of all mankind.

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2006

Thursday, September 7, 5:00 p.m.

**Consumer & Family Affairs**

Convenors: Joan McLandress, Darlene Ford

Roll Call: bring your favourite recipe for a vegetable (harvest) dish.

Motto: You reap what you sow, usually.

Comments: Joan McLandress

Pot Luck: home of Bill and Joan McLandress at 5:00 p.m. Bring a harvest dish to share. "Husbands are invited." Bring a lawn chair.

Thursday, October 5, 8 a.m.

**South Dunwich Community Hall**

**Citizenship & Legislation**

Car Pool to go to London Area W.I. Convention at Thorndale Arena.

Lunch: \$8.00

Banquet: \$12.00

Rides will be available for those who wish to come home after the afternoon program, or for those who want to stay for the banquet and evening entertainment. Please let Sally McIntyre our convenor know of your plans.

Thursday, November 2, 7 p.m.

**Canadian Industries**

Place: Home of Jim & Darlene Ford

Convenor: Darlene Ford, Joan McLandress

Motto: "Sometimes a hobby becomes a career."

Comments: Joan McLandress

Roll Call: Name a hobby you pursue or would like to pursue.

Meeting: "Fun Night" at 7 p.m. Bring a friend.

RSVP one week prior to Darlene or Joan

Speaker: Marion Boulton demonstrating

"Stamping Up." Make and take - 3 custom-made seasonal cards. Materials provided \$4.00 each.

Lunch: Darlene Ford & Joan McLandress

Thursday, December 7, 12:00 Noon

**Christmas Meeting**

Place: home of Helen Van Brenk

Convenors: Helen Van Brenk, Kathy Minnema

**Christmas Pot Luck Dinner**

Roll Call: Talk about a plant you wished you never planted and why.

Readings: On Christmas by Louie Lackey.

Speaker: Joan McLandress-experiences during her teaching career.

Donation: \$10.00 to our Christmas family.

2007

Second Thursday, January 11, 12 noon

**Pot Luck Dinner**

Place: South Dunwich Community Hall

Convenors: Kay Waite, Dorothea Monteith

Program: Progressive Euchre card party

Invite your Friends

Second Thursday, February 8, 12:00 Noon

**Educational and Cultural Activities**

Place: Dutton-Dunwich Municipal Building meeting room

Convenors: Amarilis Drouillard, Kathy Minnema

Lunch: 12 noon. Provided by the "Old Village Tea Room." Cost \$7.00

Motto: Learning is more than the 3 'Rs'

Comments: Kathy Minnema

Roll Call: Name your most difficult subject during school and how you made it easier?

Speaker: Tracey Trudell on "DYSLEXIA"

Thursday, March 1, 6:00 p.m.

**International Affairs**

Place: South Dunwich Community Hall

Convenors: Doris Barber, Kay Waite

Pot Luck: 6 p.m. Please bring a dish of International Cuisine (with recipe) to share.

Roll Call: bring a labelled article or articles from a foreign country to place on our display table.

Social hour to follow. Please bring your husbands.

Second Thursday, April 12, 1:30 p.m.

**Annual Meeting & Tweedsmuir History**

Place: South Dunwich Community Hall

Convenor: Helen Van Brenk

Roll Call: Bring or tell about a favourite book of your childhood.

Reports: Rural Ontario Sharing Education

Co-ordinator: Kay Waite

Nominating Committee: Louie Lackey

Tweedsmuir Report: Helen Van Brenk

Installation of Officers: Darlene Ford

Payment of Membership Fees ..... \$15.00

Display: Tweedsmuir Books, Scrapbooks & house Logs

Lunch: Kay Waite, Kathy Minnema

Thursday, May 3, 1:30 p.m.

**Grandmothers Meeting**

Place: South Dunwich Community Hall

Convenor: Louie Lackey

**"Formal Grandmothers Tea"**

in honour of Grandmothers

Roll Call: name something that has changed since Grandma's day.

Speaker: Pastor Diane MacPherson on "Grandmothers."

Lunch: prepared & served by W.I. members

Thursday June 7, 1:30 p.m.

**Agriculture**

Place: South Dunwich Community Hall

Convenors: Kay Lilley, Joan Johnston

Roll Call: What was your favourite trip?

Speakers: The report and photographs of Kay & Allan Lilley's visit to the cattle farms of Alberta.

Lunch: Joan Johnston & Kay Lilley

Husbands are invited.



# WALLACETOWN WOMENS INSTITUTE

On thursday April 13th, 8 members and 5 guests were present at the Wallacetown W.I. meeting, held at the South Dunwich Community Hall at 1:30 pm. President Helen Van Brenk opened the meeting in the usual manner. Reports's were given. Members paid their membership fee for 2006-2007.

The official disbanment of the North Yarmouth W.I. was on March 13th, 2006.

A special request from Mary Janes - (F.W.I.O. International Officer), to prompt members to write letters to our Canadian Military in Afghanistan. The address as follows:

To any Member of the Canadian Forces  
I P.P.CLI. B.G.  
Trorion.

A BTY, A, B, BHQ,  
ATG, TP, Track  
Force, Afghanistan,  
P/O Box 5058 STN.  
FORCES,  
Belleville, Ontario,  
K8N 5W6

Yearend reports were given by Helen Van

Brenk - Tweedsmuir Book; Rural Ontario Sharing Education Co-ordinator - Kay Waite read by Louie Lackey, Volunteer Hours - 2,483 hours by Louie Lackey, the Nominating Committee - by Louie Lackey. Installation of Officers for 2006 - 2007 by Darlene Ford as follows: President - Helen Van Brenk; Vice President - Kathy Minnema; Secretary - Joan McLandress; Assistant secretary - Kathy Minnema; Treasurer - Louie Lackey; District Director - Helen Van Brenk;

Alternate District Director - Dorothea Monteith; Rose Education co-ordinator - Kay Waite; Branch Director - Gladys Graham; Tweedsmuir Curator - Helen Van Brenk; Auditors - Joan Johnston, Kay Waite; Press Reporter - Kathy Minnema; Rep. to Bobier Villa - Amarilis Drouillard; Rep. to Elgin Manor - Joan McLandress, Joan Johnston; Rep to

Elgin County Pioneer Museum - Helen Van Brenk; Cards and Cheer - Kay Lilley.

Kathy Minnema was presented with a 10 year pin by Louie Lackey. Darlene Ford has organized another W.I. bus trip on Dec. 17th. to Brantford to see a musical variety show by the LOWE FAMILY.

Convenor was Helen Van Brenk. Roll Call: Bring a photo of your wedding day and a write up to put into the Tweedsmuir Book. Helen then introduced our speaker for the afternoon Ms. Alison Pearce. She is a member of a very well known family from this area going back to the early settlers. In 1950 she left the area to get her teaching degree at the age of 18, then later taught in Sarnia, England for some years and settled in Toronto for the remainder of her teaching career, also becoming a school trustee for a short time.

Her parents were Earnest and

Alice Pearce. She considered them the last of the pioneers, and remembers her father clearing a field of stumps and the first crop being mangels for the use of cattle feed. Plowing with a single furrow plow, and helping to harvest pumpkins into the night and a large orange moon overhead shining down on them. The implements was well cared for and kept inside by her father. In 1921 her mother kept a record of all the expenses in and out for the family. Her mother gave \$.10 at the W.I. meeting. Wheat was \$1.25 a bushel; Beans were \$2.00 a bushel; \$.16 a lb for pigs; \$.10 1/2 for lambs; and \$.08 for beef. Hired help were paid \$1.25 per day, and \$5.20 went to Renny Seed Company for garden seeds. A large

variety of vegetables and fruits along with meats were canned for later use throughout the seasons. Nothing wasted everything

had a purpose, used and reused until it couldn't be used for anything else.

In 1944 she remembers a winter snow storm so bad the snowplows couldn't get through from Dec. - March.

With the help of her older brother they had to take the animals to a creek and chop the ice for water every day. The grain was taken to Wallacetown to be made into flour, and her mother always received a special bag of brown flour for bread and muffins. A memory of her Grandmother always giving her a pair of knitted mittens for her birthday in May, and christmas a very special time for them. When company came to visit there was always lots to eat, and ready in no time at all. Imagine that with no fridges, freezers or stores

close by. Those were the days! Her father sold the farm in 1953 to the Hentz family, and moved to London.

Ms. Pearce didn't return for many years but still remembers and feels a connection to this area where she was born.

Helen thanked Ms. Pearce for an enjoyable afternoon. Then invited everyone to browse through the Tweedsmuir Books out on display here today.

Sally McIntyre and Kay Waite supplied a lovely lunch for all. Kathy Minnema thanked the lunch committee.

Next Meeting: Convenor Louie Lackey on thursday, May 13th. at 1:30 pm at the South Dunwich Community Hall. Roll Call: name a 'Kitchen Proverb' or saying that you have heard, written in your own handwriting to hand to Helen for the Tweedsmuir Book. speaker - Louie Lackey 'Memories of Growing Up on the Family Farm'. Bring a Grandmother or guest.

*K Minnema*