

# Sand Plains Funding for Museum Barn Quilt Project

## Mike Baker

The Elgin, Oxford, Norfolk Association of Museums, a non-profit association which includes the Elgin County Museum, was recently awarded a grant of \$178,000 to establish a barn quilt trail through the five counties of the Sand Plains Region (Elgin, Oxford, Norfolk, Middlesex and Brant). A barn quilt is a quilt block painted on an eight foot square wooden frame and hung on the side of a barn or farm building or set on free standing posts next to an historic site or structure. The patterns used in the block often reflect traditional quilt blocks or are inspired by the history of the host farm and the surrounding community.

The application was inspired by the popularity of barn quilts in the US where many counties have sponsored barn quilt trails as a way to encourage tourism and provide commercial opportunities to businesses along the trail. In Ontario trails have been established at Wardsville and Temiskaming for the 2009 IPM.

The intent of the project is to bring a new tourist product to the region that complements the museums' programs and thereby increase attendance. Economic Development staff supported the application and the



Left: Examples of Barn Quilts as seen on pioneer barns & some of the many designs for Barn Quilts across North America.

Barn owners will be approached in the next several weeks with a request to allow the committee to install a quilt panel on their barn or outbuilding. The grant will fund 20 quilt panels and it is hoped that an additional 10 will be funded through in-kind donations or sponsorship.

The map guide to the trail will include other features such as bike trails, farm markets and other heritage sites and attractions. Substantial amounts for promotion and for utilizing web-based tools for accessing the quilt stories are included in the grant. Stories relating to each quilt block, the farm and nearby attractions are accessed through smart phone technology and the barn quilt web site.

The addition of a new attraction in the form of a barn quilt trail linked to trails in the surrounding counties will draw additional visitors to our area. The museums in the county will continue to support the project after the Sand Plains project finishes in March, 2012.

*(Mike Baker is Curator of the Elgin County Museum)*

committee is being assisted by the County's Tourism Assistant who is providing expertise in promoting the trail. The Elgin County Museum has taken on the organizing of the local committee. A number of museum and

heritage organization representatives from across the county have been meeting since March and have selected a number of potential barns for the county's trail. The objective of the trail is to link suitable barns distributed equally across the county.



Sally M'Intyre - Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 2011  
Wallacetown W.I.



**Tour of Provincial  
Parliament – Toronto  
With Steve Peters – Speaker for  
the House**

**Monday, Aug. 22, 2011**

**\$50 per person**

Small coach --- limited space available

Will fill up quickly

Touring Parliament Buildings & Steve's apartment 1pm  
– 4 pm

**Wallacetown Women's Institute  
day trip**

**Phone Darlene 519-762-2990**

For Info & to book

Will stop for Dinner on the way home – you  
pay your own





**Central Elgin**  
C1  
46900  
Jamestown Line



C2  
46699  
Dexter Line



C3  
5376  
Quaker Road



C4  
Sparta Store



C5  
45644  
Sparta Line



C6  
44628  
Sparta Line



C7  
43291  
Sparta Line



C8  
9592  
Sunset Road



**Southwold**  
S1  
38814  
Fingal Line



S2  
38814  
Fingal Line



**Southwold**  
S3  
38266  
Fingal Line



S4  
37894  
Fingal Line



S5  
37632  
Fingal Line  
Tufford



S6  
7895  
Church Street  
at Fowler  
Fingal



S7  
33280  
Fingal Line



**Dutton Dunwich**  
D1  
31760  
Erin Line  
Van Brenk



D2  
31177  
Fingal Line



D3  
7032  
Bradt Road



D4  
30487  
Fingal Line



D5  
Wallacetown  
Community  
Centre



**Dutton Dunwich**  
D6  
29424  
Lakeview Ln  
Backus Page



D7  
29283  
Lakeview Ln  
Pearce



D9  
28143  
Talbot Line



**West Elgin**  
W1  
26257  
Talbot Line



W2  
9429  
Graham Road



W3  
24810  
Talbot Line



W4  
21869  
Talbot Line



W5  
21298  
Talbot Line



W6  
20272  
Talbot Line



W7  
19936  
Talbot Line



**West Elgin**  
W8  
19931  
Talbot Line



W9  
10144  
Furnival Road



W10  
14287  
Furnival Road

*Photos Taken by  
Jon Row.*

*Barns Taken for  
Barn Quilts to  
go on across  
Elgin County.  
March, May, June.  
2011*





**Existing**

D8  
Dutton Dunwich  
Lavender Sense  
28011 Ash Line



WV1  
West Elgin  
22924  
Johnson Line



WV2  
West Elgin  
15611  
Morrison Rd



WV3  
West Elgin  
23328  
Beattie Line  
Wardsville



**Bayham**

B1  
Pt Burwell  
Marine Museum  
20 Pitt Street



B2  
opp 56084  
Talbot Line



B3  
54147 Eden Line



B4  
53814 Eden Line



**Malahide**

M1  
53042  
Glencolin Line



M2  
52580  
Glencolin Line



**Malahide**

M3  
52230  
Glencolin Line



M4  
51603  
Glencolin Line



M5  
8801  
Hacienda Road



M6  
8378  
Hacienda Road



M7  
8235  
Hacienda Road



M8  
7924  
Hacienda Road



M9  
49628  
John Wise Line



M10  
6777  
Imperial Road



M11  
48075  
Jamestown Line  
Dairy Museum



M12  
47972  
Rush Creek Line



Butter Kist Popcorn Machine.

**the auto-grand butter-kist popcorn machine**

BY HOLCOMB & BLOKE

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The machine shown here measures 17" x 20" x 20" (including shell) and is operated in every detail, including operation of the shell from the popper down and bottoming. While this model is electric, others are manual or electrical gas to heat the popping plate. The 17" x 20" shell could be used to support a shell popping basket (not shown). A self-cleaning glass bottom with warming element (optional) heating up to keep popcorn at bottom of bowl. No popcorn.

But corn is heated from the glass bottom (optional) into the popping plate. The plate is supported in space on three supports, or pressure by a variable switch that enables the operator to adjust the popping capacity from 90 down to 30 popcorn an hour. Once popped, the corn is deposited into the heated glass-lined display/storage area beneath the popper.

The auto-grand features a sturdy cabinet made of heavy-duty metal and our unique features, it has also available in quality wood. Finished in black or white, it has the spirit color of the wood. All metal trimmings are highly polished for a brilliant finish. The machine is mounted on rolling casters for easy movement. Also featured is a blinking "Let Butter Kist Popcorn" sign on glass plate and you collect sign that reads between "Let Butter Kist Popcorn" and "Thank You, Let Butter Kist."

**Model No. 107**  
**Case 108**  
**Original Cost \$200.00**  
**Can produce 90 hours of corn**  
**Full automatic operation (popping/bottoming)**

**Thank You For Your Help & Support:**

**TRIGUY'S**  
**Farm Equipment**  
**AMERICA'S**

Special thanks to Tom Linn and Steve Pinsky for their kind work on the and to Corey Sorenson for his help with the machine and poster design.

Checked & returned by: J.L. Morgan

It's AT THE ELGIN COUNTY MUSEUM.



**LONDON AREA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE  
97<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2011**



**THEME: HEALTH AND HAPPINESS**

**LOCATION**

Caradoc Community Centre  
545 Lions Park Drive  
Mount Brydges, Ontario  
N0L 1W0  
519 264-9900

**ELGIN**

HURON SOUTH, HURON WEST  
MIDDLESEX EAST, MIDDLESEX NORTHWEST  
OXFORD  
PERTH SOUTH



Helen VAN BREK

KATHY MINNEMA.



**PROGRAM FOR 2011  
LONDON AREA CONVENTION  
THURSDAY, October 13  
Chair: Berniece Harris**

8:30 a.m. **Registration:** President of the 7 Districts  
**Reception:** Rie VanSteege, Glenna Ladell  
**Coffee Hour:** Mount Brydges

9:25 a.m. **Time to Sing:** Jannet Trewartha,  
Betty McIntyre  
**Presentation of Flags:** Anne Innes,  
Debbie Bauer

**Sing:** O Canada  
Institute Ode  
Mary Stewart Collect

**Welcome:** Middlesex Northwest President,  
Marg Harris

How to Vote  
Acceptance of Minutes of 2010 Convention  
**Financial Report:** Margaret Ogar  
**Financial Examiners' Report:**  
Vivian McDonald, Barb Watson

Correspondence  
**In Memorium:** Clandeboye  
**Roll Call:** District Presidents-  
Highlight of 2010-11

**F.W.I.O. President:** Carol Innes  
**Lite and Lively:** Louise Bolton  
Adelaide Hoodless Homestead Report  
**FYI:** Dr. Paula Vanderburgh and Dr. Tricia  
Kingsley, chiropractors

Nomination of Area Voting Delegate & Alt.  
**Nominees for Provincial positions:**  
Prov. Board Director for Southern Region  
**Announcements:** Berniece Harris  
Comments on Displays: Sheila Greason

12:00 noon Sing Institute Grace, Adjourn for Lunch  
**Country Store:** Ilderton

**ACWW memberships:** Eleanor Williams (\$40.00)  
**Fed. News subscriptions:** Vivian McDonald (\$5.00)

**AFTERNOON SESSION  
CHAIR: Debbie Bauer**

12:45 p.m. Picture Taking  
1:15 p.m. Hymn of All Nations  
Greetings from visiting Area Presidents:  
Southwestern, Guelph, Grey-Bruce  
**FYI:** Caren Johnston, The Guiding Light

**Reports: ALL PRINTED – PLEASE READ**

**Convenors:** Report and Move Adoption

**Advocacy Convenor:** Sally McMullen

**ROSE Coordinator:** Doreen Marks

**Public Relations:** Mabel Jacklin

**Tweedsmuir Curator:** Mary Nicklas

**Children's Hospital:** Donna Willows

**ACWW SOS:** Debbie Bauer  
(ACWW Southern Ontario Support)

**BREAK**

**CHAIR: Sheila Greason**

**Provincial Happenings:**

Area Voting Delegate: Rie VanSteege  
Southern Reg. Brd. Dir.: Marlene Archer  
Pauline Rockefeller

**Election of Officers:** Carol Innes

**President's Remarks:** Berniece Harris

**New Business:** Harrietsville W.I.

**Invitation for Convention 2012:**

Middlesex East



# Looking back at Elgin industries

## Wallacetown Women's Institute News

Kathy Minnema

On Oct. 6, eight members and three guests met at the South Dunwich Community hall and carpooled to the Elgin County Museum on Sunset Drive. We were welcomed by Mike Baker in the room dedicated to the members of the Women's Institutes of Elgin. Here, Mike explained the process of the Quilt Block Tour for Elgin County, which celebrates the past 200 years of settlements along the sandy shores of Lake Erie. Also on display were Industry's of St. Thomas and

Elgin, such as wheat for Flour Mills (Dutton had it's own), Flax Mill in St. Thomas for making linen, Erie Iron made train wheels, Elgin Handles for any type of small equipment, and Timken made bearings sent all over the country. Then we went into the storage room where many different types of items from household, pictures and posters, farming and business articles are kept at a proper temperature for future use. Everyone came away with a respect for the past and those that help to preserve it and thanking Mike for giving us this time to look back.

Our meeting was held at the Sunset Cafe in St. Thomas. President Helen

Van Brenk opened the meeting with the Institute Ode, Mary Stewart Collect and the Lord's Prayer. Joan McLandress gave the secretaries report and Louie Lackey gave the treasurer's report.

The convenor was Helen VanBrenk. The roll call: A memory of a local fair. Remembers her house being upside down from all activities of getting entries for the fair by all family members; when Mr. Diefenbaker opened the Wallacetown fair; checking exhibit for prizes won; floats, making displays; putting kids in parades; rides, 4-H dairy show and making apple pies.

Kathy Minnema reported on going to the Harriestville W.I. Fashion Show.

Sally McIntyre reported on the Bobier Villa Harvest Tea. Helen VanBrenk gave the report on the Elgin W.I. district meeting. Helen Van Brenk read a letter from the FWIO thanking us for our Rose Programs that have been reported to date.

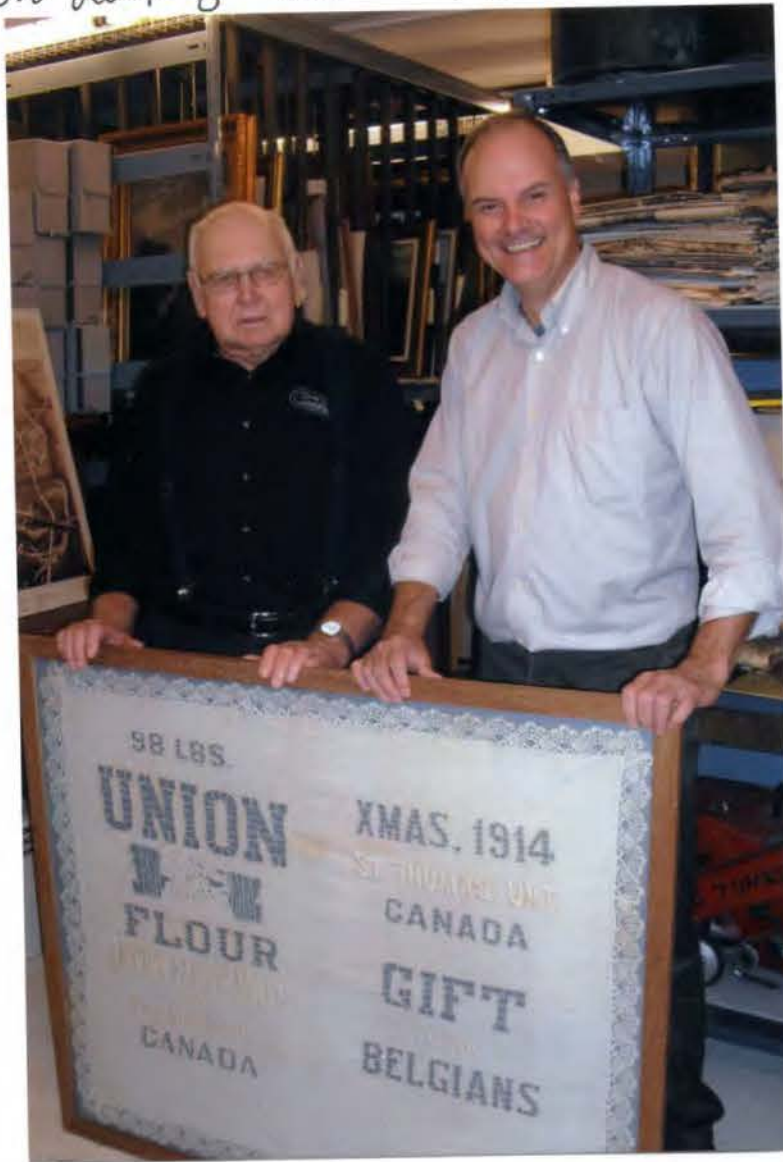
We then enjoyed a light lunch of drinks and desserts. Meeting adjourned.

Tweedsmuir History: The Women's Institutes have been recording the history of our communities since 1944 all over the world founded by Lady Tweedsmuir. The 1st curator for Wallacetown W.I. was Mrs. Grace Page and helpers were Mrs. John F. Cameron and Mrs. J. E. Pearce until the

1970's when Mrs. Gertrude Sloan became the 2nd curator with help from Mrs. Dorothy Robson. In the 1980's Mrs. Dorothy Robson became the 3rd curator with help from Mrs. Helen Van Brenk. From 1990 to the present day Mrs. Helen Van Brenk has been the 4th curator with help from Mrs. Sally McIntyre and Mrs. Louie Lackey. Helen is currently working on Book #9. Information on a variety of events throughout the years have been documented and digitalized and is now stored in the Elgin County Archives and at the Dutton Library for anyone to see.

Next meeting: Nov. 3rd at 1:15 p.m. meet at the South Dunwich Community Hall and carpool to home of Angie Gagnon. Lunch to follow. Roll call: How often or when do you pamper yourself?

Don Lackey and Mike Baker.



Flour sent to Belgians by Canadians in World War one

photos taken by Helen VanBrenk

Pat Waite and Bill M'Landress



A Coin Sheller - Black Hawk - corn sheller 1900 made by ERIE IRON WORKS. Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 2011 ST THOMAS



# Remembering Ford

## Elgin County Archives mounts Ford Assembly Plant exhibit

Ford's final day of production at the Talbotville plant may have been September 16, but you can relive the early years in a new exhibit of vintage photographs from the 1960s to the 1980s.

The Elgin County Archives has mounted an extensive show featuring more than 50 photographs from its collection documenting the history of the Ford St. Thomas Assembly Plant, which produced its first vehicle in December 1967.

"There's lots of memories here for people," says Stephen Francom, Elgin County archivist. "Whether you worked there, had family who worked there, or worked in a subsidiary company, your life was touched by it in some way."

The exhibit, *Ford Motor Company of Canada Limited St. Thomas Assembly Plant: Photographs from the St. Thomas Times-Journal Collection, 1966-1983*, includes images documenting the selection and preparation of the plant site, plant construction, milestone events, labour relations, and, most significantly, the production and distribution of a series of iconic vehicles including the Falcon, Maverick and Crown Victoria.

"The closure of Ford is the end of an era," said Elgin County Warden Dave Mennill. "But I am happy that the many years of his-



...tory and the mark made by Ford over the years will live on in this special collection."

Gina Coady, archivist assistant at the Elgin County Archives, shows visitors some of the photographs that are part of the current exhibit focusing on the early years of the St. Thomas Ford Assembly Plant.

### IF YOU GO...

Elgin County Archives Ford photograph exhibit

When? Tue. to Fri. 10am-4pm

Where? Lower level of Elgin County Administration Building, 450 Sunset Dr., St. Thomas

Cost? Free

More info? 519-631-1460, ext. 154 or www.elgin.ca



Display: Wheat for Flour Mills in Dutton. Photo taken Oct 6<sup>th</sup> / 2011 by Helen Van Buren



### Changing Gears: Elgin County Industry in the 20th Century

September 17 to December 23 2011

This exhibition illustrates the region's transition from a reliance on several US railways to the opening of a number of American branch plants producing auto parts and vehicles, crowned by the arrival of the Ford plant in Talbotville in 1967.

Ford Talbotville, 1968 Courtesy, Elgin County Archives



The Museum is open 10 am to 4 pm, Tuesday to Saturday and is located at 450 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas. Call 519.631.1460 ext. 160 for information or visit www.elgincounty.ca click on Community and Cultural Services.



Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 2011



MARY GILLET, at The Corn Sheller Black Hawk-  
Corn Sheller, 1900 made by ERIE IRON  
Works, ST THOMAS.



■ WALLACETOWN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

# Pot-luck set for Jan. 5

**KATHY MINNEMA**  
For the Times-Journal

Nine members of the Wallacetown Women's Institute met Nov. 3 at the home of Nail Pro winner Angie Gagnon.

Convener Kathy Minnema introduced Gagnon, who became interested as a small child by watching her mother at the nail salon. Working with mentors over the years has given her the confidence to pursue and accomplish her dreams.

Angie described her competition experiences of finding the right model, working under cold conditions and the time limits allowed to complete her design which was a double swan.

After 27 years her passion is still strong and, with the support of her family, she will try new challenges that come her way.

Everyone had the opportunity to use a homemade hand and nail cleaner and softener. Angie also gave us

helpful tips on nail dos and don'ts. Explaining that with age, diet and lifestyle, our nails change over the years. We also watched Angie prepared and paint Mary Gillet's nails. Kathy thanked Angie for an enjoyable time.

The meeting portion was held at the home of member Louie Lackey. Lunch was provided by Kathy Minnema. Followed by a reading, "Pampering Yourself," by Kathy.

Roll call was the question, How or when do you pamper yourself? Answers: having pedicures or manicures, going for drives in the car, weekly hair appointments, taking time for yourself first thing in the morning, massages, walking the dog, opening a bottle of wine, hot bath and reading a book.

President Helen Van Brenk opened our meeting with the Institute Ode, Mary Stewart Collect and the Lord's Prayer, followed by the secretary and treasurer's reports.

Bobier Villa had a very good

turnout for their Harvest Tea in October.

Iona Willing Workers invited us to Grandma's Country Kitchen Bazaar on Nov. 26 at Iona Hall.

A letter from the Harrietsville WI was discussed in support of their resolution to back small abattoirs, and send letters to various levels of government and a petition was circulated to sign.

Our Institute has sent in a nomination for the Elgin Agricultural Hall of Fame for 2011.

Sponsorships for this year were decided and approved. Members paid for our Christmas Dinner on Dec. 1 and gave a donation toward our Christmas family. The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting will be noon on Jan. 5 at the South Dunwich Community Hall.

Pot-luck dinner and card party will be featured. Friends from the community and husbands are welcome.



*photo taken Nov 3 2011 by Helen Van Brenk*

*1, Ruth Rueger 2(standing) Angie Gagnon, 3, Joan M'Landress 4, Sally M'Intyre*





1 Ruth Rueger, 2 Joan McLandress, 3 Angie Gagnon,  
4 Sally McIntyre, 5 Kathy Minnema, 6 Mary Gillet, 7 Louie Lockey  
8 Kay Waite

Standing - Jennie Gow.



March 1<sup>st</sup> 2012.  
WALLACETOWN W. I Members.

Sitting Darlene Ford -





## **W.I. Christmas Dinner & Show**

At Lakeview Restaurant – Eagle  
Located on Hwy. 3 west  
Thursday, December 01, 2011

**12 noon – Buffet Dinner --\$ 24 P.P.**

Turkey & all the trimmings & delightful desserts

Entertainment by Darryl Van Oirschot & Carrie  
Talented musician & singer –Darryl has traveled  
the world

Please phone with number's & \$\$ included by  
Nov. 08/11

519-762-5495 or e-mail [forddarjim@golden.net](mailto:forddarjim@golden.net)

**Hosted by Wallacetown WI – Everyone  
Welcome**



## Wallacetown W.I. hosts Christmas dinner

### Wallacetown Women's Institute News

Kathy Minnema

The Wallacetown Women's Institute held their December meeting at Lakeview Gardens. A full Christmas-turkey dinner was supplied for 50 guests. President Helen Van Brenk welcomed everyone and led us in the Institute Ode, Mary Stewart Collect and the Institute Grace. We were entertained by area entertainers Darryl Van Oirschot, and Carrie Howard both from the Rodney

area while we ate.

Following the meal member Darlene Ford lightened the afternoon with a few jokes and drew names for draws. We had members from Boxal W.I.; Crinan W.I.; Kingsmill-Mapleton W.I.; Middlemarch W.I.; Shedden W.I.; West Lorne W.I.; Yarmonth Glenn W.I.; ten of our own members and family and friends from the area. Darlene then introduced our entertainers Carrie singing along with Darryl on the piano who performed a variety of songs from Christmas to musical hits from the movies. Darlene thanked Dar-

ryl and Carrie for entertaining us.

Darlene also thanked the kitchen staff for a wonderful meal. Bonnie Graham from Boxal W.I. thanked our members for the invitation on behalf of all Institutes.

*Chronicle Dec 22nd/2011*



*photo taken  
by  
Helen Van Brak*

*W.I. Buffet dinner.*

*Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 2011*



Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 2011



scrapbooks and binders make them invaluable resources for genealogists and others researching the history of local families and communities.

"These books are priceless resources that contain original photos of people, places and buildings that don't exist anymore," says Stephen Francom, archivist of the Elgin County Archives. "They are primary resources you can't get anywhere else. That we'll be able to make these universally available online is absolutely essential to our mandate."

The digitization project, which the Archives will com-

plete between January and May 2012, is a continuation of a similar project concluded in March 2007, involving the digitization and publication online of more than 50 volumes of Elgin County Tweedsmuir History Books. The success of that project was instrumental in the Archives receiving the 2007 Archives Association of Ontario Institutional Award.

"I am pleased to see the Archives is continuing the im-

portant work of providing enhanced public access to these rich and wonderful volumes and am very grateful to the Elgin County Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society for its support," said Elgin County Warden Dave Mennill.

**MORE INFO...**  
Tweedsmuir History Books  
[www.elgin.ca](http://www.elgin.ca)



Photo  
Taken  
25<sup>th</sup> Nov  
2011

1 Warden Dave Mennill, 2 Archivist Stephen Francom,  
3 Helen Van Brenk 4 Jean Bircham.



# localnews

■ **HERITAGE:** The Women's Institute Tweedsmuir books are invaluable to researchers

## Rural history books to be digitized

PATRICK BRENNAN  
Times-Journal

If you ever lived in rural Elgin county, a snapshot of who you were, where you lived and what your community was like will live on at the Elgin County Archives.

A donation Friday of \$6,000 from the Elgin branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will permit digitization of Elgin County Women's Institute Tweedsmuir history

books to continue.

"We ran a similar but much larger project in 2006-2007," said Stephen Francom, manager/archivist of the Elgin County Archives. "We digitized all of the Tweedsmuir history books in our collection, at that time more than 50 volumes (covering more than 7,500 pages)."

The books are compiled by members of the Women's Institutes.

"They represent the farm

women contributions to their communities," said Jean Bircham, treasurer of the Elgin branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society.

"They were compiled in sections where these women lived. They are pictures and stories of the families and farms and people that lived in the area and they are invaluable for people who are doing family research and local history on various (subjects) such as the cheese factories."

The volumes are converted to PDF form and made available online at the Elgin County Archives website.

A manual process using acid-free papers and archival bindings is still the preferred technique for Women's Institutes. Typically a Tweedsmuir history book contains unique original photographs and documents.

Each branch has a Tweedsmuir convener whose job it is to co-ordinate building the volumes and having them digitized.

Older physical content in volumes may be very fragile as it gets older, Francom said.

"By digitizing them, we allow people to access that content without physically touching the material," he said.

"It also makes it available to a wider audience," Bircham said.

"We can let one researcher at a time come in and look at this book physically, but if it's available online to anyone with a computer and an Internet connection, an infinite number of people can be looking at the material at the same time," Francom said.



ROBERT CHAULK Times-Journal

Stephen Francom, standing, manager/archivist for the Elgin County Archives, points out an original photograph in a Tweedsmuir history book to Elgin Warden Dave Mennill, left; Helen Van Brenk, Tweedsmuir curator for the Elgin County District Women's Institute; and Jean Bircham, treasurer of the Elgin County branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. Bircham presented a \$6,000 cheque Friday to the archives to support digitization of all the recent history books.