

**K**eeep us O **L**ord from pettiness; let us  
be large in thought, in 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 judgment  
and always generous.  
Teach us to put into action our better  
impulses, straight forward and unafraid.  
Let us take time for all things; make  
us grow calm, serene, gentle.  
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, **L**ord **G**od, let us not forget to be kind.

Mary Stewart

WEST LORNE

TWEEDSMUIR VILLAGE HISTORY BOOK

STARTED IN SEPTEMBER ,1946.

FIRST TWEEDSMUIR VILLAGE HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE:

Mrs. John A. McKillop, Convenor,  
Mrs. J.B. Ferguson,  
Mrs. Mac McKillop,  
Miss Mima Currie,  
Mrs. Norval Murray.

This Committee was organized in September, 1946 and functioned until April, 1955. Its members are deeply indebted to Miss Alice Meek, R.N. of West Lorne, for the design and colored art work throughout the book.

HISTORY OF THE WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

FROM

January 29th, 1913--March 13th, 1947.

" The New years come and  
the Old years go,  
As swings Time's pendulum  
to and fro. "

Aeons of time have passed since the Pioneers of Canada hewed out of the forests the sturdy timbers of which their dwellings were built, yet within those crudely fashioned homes there dwelt men and women who had unflinching faith in their country and their God. Men and women who bore hardship with patience, adversity with courage, and undauntedly strove to create within that dwelling those things which constitute home and abundant life. The women faced their tasks with brave hearts and faithfully cared for their families, moulding the lives of their children with a great and tender hope for their future.

Time passed, and with the years came changes and progress. One of the changes, which came a half-century ago, was revolutionary in its effect upon the lives of rural home-makers. Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, who had suffered the sorrow of losing her child through, as she felt, an inadequate knowledge of health laws, thought that something could be done to safe-guard the lives of other children in the future. Through her influence a group of farm women gathered in Squire's Hall, Stoney Creek, on Feb. 19th, 1897, and it was there the Women's Institute had its birth. This meeting was attended by 101 women. It came into being as the Women's Department of Domestic Economy

in affiliation with the Farmers' Institute. They decided to call the new Organization "The Women's Department of Farmers' Institute of South Wentworth". The name lasted exactly one week and, at the next meeting, was changed to the now familiar "Women's Institute". Its primary object was Domestic Science and Sewing Instruction for Women, its Motto "For Home and Country". The first president was Mrs. E. D. Smith, wife of Senator Smith of Winona, Ont. It provided an opportunity for farm and village women to meet regularly to discuss their problems and acquire information concerning their responsibilities as home-makers and citizens.

As a pebble is thrown into a pond and the ripples increase in number, so this movement grew, and upon a day in January, 1913--the 29th to be exact--largely through the interest and enthusiasm of Mrs. Tom Sims, wife of the Editor of the Elgin Sun, sixty ladies gathered in the Old Opera House to organize a branch of the Women's Institute in West Lorne. Four women came down from Rodney by train that day at noon to assist in the organization. They were Mrs. C. A. Wray, who was District President at that time, Mrs. McLevy, the District Secretary, and the two Branch Directors--Mrs. Stinson and Mrs. Eggert (now Mrs. R. J. Hood). They had to have a membership before they could elect officers, so a goodly number of ladies gave their names and membership fee of 25¢, and the organization work proceeded. Mrs. Sims was elected President and Mrs. Hugh C. McKillop the Secretary-Treasurer. The late Mrs. (Dr.) Webster entertained the Rodney ladies to supper. The meetings were to be held on the first Friday of each month at 3.00 p. m. in the homes of the members. They were opened by singing "The Maple Leaf Forever" and closed with "God Save the King".

In a year and a half after the organization of the Branch, the first World War broke out, and the years from Aug. 4th, 1914, to Nov. 11, 1918,

were very busy ones for the women under the Presidency of Mrs. Sims, Mrs. Wanless, Mrs. Hurley, Mrs. Dan McKillop and Mrs. Mac McKillop, with Mrs. Hugh McKillop, Mrs. Dan Clark, Mrs. Merrett and Mrs. Fred Cullen as the Secretary-treasurers. The Institute took charge of all the war work and records reveal that a tremendous amount of business was dealt with at the meetings. The village was divided into sections and a member allotted to each territory to collect funds each month. Names of collectors were:- Mrs. Edmonds, Mrs. Sharratt, Mrs. Archibald McKillop, Mrs. Fred Cullen, Mrs. Hugh McKillop, Miss Bolsby, Mrs. Sims, Mrs. Mac McKillop, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. John A. McKillop, Mrs. Patton, Mrs. Dan McKillop. Some months as much as \$100.00 was raised in this way. The money was used to purchase yarn to knot socks for the men in the armed forces and provide other comforts for them. It was common practice for the Packing Committee to ship monthly to the McKay Home 48 pairs of socks, 99 towels (one month there were 194 towels), 55 pillowcases, 22 pounds of candy, besides sheets, py-jamas, comfort bags, etc. In Nov., 1916, 42 Christmas boxes were sent, and 86 lbs. of fruit cake,  $42\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. of cookies,  $29\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. of candy were forwarded to St. Thomas for general shipment. At the Nov. meeting, 1917, 255 pairs of socks were reported shipped. Monthly donations of not less than \$10.00 were made to the Prisoners' Bread Fund. Yarn was purchased in lots of \$50.00 worth, also whole bolts of towelling, sheeting and flannelette.

Besides the monthly collections money was raised by serving banquets for the Corn Show, and, during those years, West Lorne had a Driving Club, at which the Institute had booth privileges, as well as at the Bowling Tournaments and Baseball games. Concerts were given and old papers collected and sold. It is interesting to record that the money received during the year ending in May, 1917, from monthly collections, sale of papers, concerts,

Poultry Show, Bowling Tournament, etc. amounted to \$1,183.94, and expenditures for War Work were \$1,128.10. Tickets were sold on a horse donated by the late Hugh C. McKillop; proceeds amounted to \$90.25. At the Poultry Show in 1918 a guessing contest was held on some Silver Wyandotte chickens donated by Mr. Becker, on a bushel of corn provided by Mr. Maynard, and on a jar of beans given by Mrs. Alex McColl. The sum realized was \$64.59. Mrs. Fuller, Mrs. Mac McKillop and Mrs. Fred Cullen were the Committee appointed to see about getting a stove for heating the premises for the Poultry Show.

The members took time to enjoy instructive papers at their meetings. For example--one on "Charity During the War" by Mrs. Hurley. This paper was repeated at a lecture given by Dr. McEwan. "Methods of Education" by Miss Bolsby, "How the Nations are Fed" by Mrs. John A. McKillop, "Children" by the late Dr. Ripley, and "Blessings from the War" by Mrs. Penrose.

The first Institute picnic was held on July 27th, 1917.

On March 1st, 1918, the Flower Fund was organized at a meeting held at the home of Mrs. Rhody, on a motion by Mrs. Merrett and seconded by Mrs. John A. McKillop. Mrs. Hugh McKillop was appointed Treasurer. This fund is still in existence and since 1933 Miss Christie Gillies has been a very faithful Treasurer.

The war was over on Nov. 11th, 1918, and the monthly collections discontinued.

There is a most interesting story to be construed from the records of the years 1919 to 1930 inclusive. The Presidents for this period were Mrs. Hugh McKillop, Mrs. Sims (sec. term), Mrs. J. B. Ferguson, Mrs. J. C. Sherk, Mrs. D. McPhail and Mrs. John A. McKillop. The Secretary-treasurers were Mrs. A. Smith, Mrs. Dan Clark (sec. term), Mrs. W. T. Merrett (sec. term),

Mrs. A. J. McMillan, Mrs. J. McGregor, and Mrs. Nicholson.

The banquet for the soldiers was held in 1919.

The activities due to the war were over, but a new project was being born, that of the erection of a Memorial Hall in the village, in tribute to the men from West Lorne and East Aldborough who had served in the war. The first information available of any step having been taken in this direction is from the minutes of a meeting held at the home of the late Mrs. Dan Clark in May, 1921, when it was moved by Mrs. H. C. McKillop and seconded by Mrs. Sims that the Institute undertake the erection of a Memorial Hall. Mrs. Wanless and Mrs. H. C. McKillop were appointed a committee to interview the Town and Township Councils to see if they would make grants towards such a building. In 1922 the Committee was enlarged to seven members, when the names of Mrs. J. B. Ferguson, Mrs. Arthur Petherick, Mrs. Edmunds, Mrs. Sims and Mrs. Schleihauf were added. The idea grew, and in 1927 the Town Council agreed to place a by-law before the people at the coming election, a Mass Meeting of the citizens was held, and the Voters' List gone over by members of the Institute. The result was that the by-law carried and the way was made clear to go ahead with the erection of the building.

All this time the Women's Institute had been busy for they needed money for this project. Once more they catered for banquets, had refreshment booths at the ballgames, held teas, garden party, Chataqua concerts, St. Patrick's supper (admission 50¢ and 35¢), Dutch supper, and put on plays. One play was entitled "Sunbonnets", for which the ticket sale amounted to \$122.45. An autograph quilt was made, on which all the names were written by Mrs. Dan Clark and Mrs. W. H. Bole. More than \$100.00 was raised on it. The late Mr. John A. McKillop purchased the quilt for \$20.00. An example

of the enthusiasm of the women is shown in the minutes of Nov. 15th, 1923, viz. -"Moved by Mrs. Dan McKillop and seconded by Mrs. Sims, that we add another thousand dollars to our Memorial Objective."

However, the members were interested in other works besides the Memorial Hall. Donations were made to assist in the Children's Shelter, the War Memorial Hospital, London, the Memorial Hospital, St. Thomas, Armenian Relief, the Institute for the Blind, Salvation Army, etc.

Community Song Books were used at the meetings for the first time on April 14th, 1922.

The character of the meetings was somewhat changed. They were still held in the members' homes, but on the second Thursday instead of the first Friday, and opened by singing the "Institute Ode" in place of "The Maple Leaf Forever". (Minutes of Nov. 1920). In Sept. 1921, printed programmes for the entire year were gotten out instead of members being appointed to take charge of meetings for certain months.

In October, 1922, the Institute collected \$137.58 for the relief of sufferers in the fire-swept area of Northern Ontario, with which mitts, stockings, underwear, etc. were purchased and boxes valued at \$400.00 were sent. Another worthwhile community effort was the fact that in 1923 the Institute was responsible for the erection of a building at the cemetery, and in June of that year the key to it was given to the Trustees of the Cemetery Board.

Victrola selections were popular items on the musical part of the programmes. At the February meeting, 1921, the High School Literary Society provided the entertainment. Maureen Skinner and Helen Sims gave a piano duet, Jean Wiley a reading, and a debate was put on under the subject, "Resolved that the Irish are a more clever race than the Scotch". Elsie



Petherick and Carman Evans upheld the affirmative, Jean Campbell and Jack Milner the negative. Spléndid papers were also given at the meetings such as "The Development of Character" by Mrs. Sims, "Simple Desserts in Warm Weather" by Mrs. Smith, "How to Keep Young" by Mrs. Carson, "The Discovery and Early Years of Our Country" by Miss Tena McKillop, "Attractiveness in the Home" by Mrs. Ball, "The Opening of Parliament" by Mrs. H. C. McKillop, and "The Maximum Good from the Minimum Outlay" by Mrs. Roy Evans. This paper was sent to the Department on a motion by Mrs. H. C. McKillop and Mrs. Arthur Petherick.

The Institute co-operated with the Department by having "Summer Speakers". Of interest is the report of the summer meeting held in the Old Opera House on the evening of May 29th, 1923. There were 168 present. Miss Edith Hopkins of Lindsay, Ont., Department Representative, gave a splendid address on "Co-operation". There were choruses by the Continuation Class and solos by Miss Erie Webster and Garfield Edwards.

"Canadian Poetry" was the theme of the programmes for 1924 and 1925, with Mrs. Duncan McKillop, Mrs. Merrett, Mrs. Mac McKillop, Mrs. Sherk, Mrs. E. Lemon, Mrs. McGuire and Mrs. Wanless giving papers on different Canadian poetesses. A splendid paper during this year was the one by Mrs. C. P. McFarlane on "The Kingship of Self-Control". Also one on "Short sketches of Canadian Authors" by Mrs. James. This paper was sent to the Department.

Mrs. Merrett was appointed pianist in 1924 and has served continuously in that office ever since.

The first history of West Lorne was given by Mr. John A. McKillop at an Institute meeting held on July 14th, 1927.

The Institute co-operated with the school by having a School Committee, and in March, 1927, this Committee, consisting of Mrs. E. Lemon and Mrs.