

In the report of Historical Research and Current Events of 1933, Miss E. Appleby, Provincial Convenor, urged the branches to collect and save the history of farms, buildings, and places of interest. Many branches, realizing the value of such records, began doing that.

It was at a meeting of Athens Women's Institute, Leeds East District, that Lady Tweedsmuir stressed the need for preserving the interesting history of our Canadian people, the places, customs and activities of our developing land. This was in 1936.

The proposition to preserve local history was forwarded to the Provincial Board of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, and thus was the beginning of our Tweedsmuir Histories. In 1945, a list of suggestions for compiling these histories was published in Home and Country, giving types of material and items to be covered, as well as an Order of Contents. This was the official launching of the "Tweedsmuir Village Histories", one of the most valuable projects of the Women's Institutes. The word "village" was later dropped, so that all branches were free to compile a community history.

Born of wealthy parents, Susan Charlotte Grosvenor grew up in a family that loved music and reading. She was presented at Court in the time of Queen Alexandra, and travelled with her family widely. She met and married John Buchan, son of Rev. John Buchan, born in Scotland, 1875.

John Buchan was called to the Bar in 1901, and from 1927 to 1935 he was a member of the British House of Commons for Scottish Universities. He was the author of more than 50 books - historical novels, swift-paced adventure stories and biographies. She also has written many plays, children's books and reminiscences. In England, she was an ardent member of the Women's Institute.

In 1935, John Buchan was raised to the peerage, given the title Baron Tweedsmuir of Elsfield, and appointed Governor-General of Canada. This was the first time a commoner had been so honored. He developed a great love for Canadian people and places, and travelled extensively to all parts of the country, including the far North. Lady Tweedsmuir continued her writing and her interest in Women's Institutes, taking a special interest in the provision of libraries for rural areas across Canada. She was an Honorary Life Member of Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

She strongly advocated that this organization, Canada-wide, compile the histories of the local communities and villages, and encouraged publication of parts of them once they were begun. For this reason, and to honour her, the histories were named "Tweedsmuir Histories".

The movement has continued to grow, with some changes in format being necessary. A Manual of Instruction was issued in 1945, and a revised edition in 1962. Another is at the publishers in 1988. A number of competitions have been held, in Districts, Area, Province and Nationally. Excellent entries have been **received**, showing a great deal of **research** and effort. However, it is most important that some effort be made in each branch to accomplish some recording, perhaps not in a class for competition, but very important for local use.

*McNeill*