

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 15, 2009  
TO: Branch & District Presidents and Members  
FROM: Joy Trimble, FWIO President  
Re: Digitalizing of Tweedsmuir Histories

Dear Members:

On behalf of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) I announced at Area Conventions of partnering with the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS). FWIO supports the OGS's proposal to identify, conserve, preserve and digitize all Women's Institutes Tweedsmuir Histories across Ontario. The agreement with OGS was officially signed on November 19, 2009 and a copy has been enclosed for your information.

A province-wide collection of these valuable one-of-a-kind historical records will ensure that future generations worldwide will be able to access information about family histories and local Ontario community events.

Branches across Ontario began creating these records as early as 1920. At one time there were 1500 Branches and each was encouraged to create Tweedsmuir's for their community.

At the time we do not believe anyone realized the significance of these histories beyond their own communities. Women's Institute members were content to spend hours of research and record keeping ensuring they left a legacy to their community. FWIO members have been working to improve Ontario communities for over 112 years. The Histories are not that well known provincially as recognition was never a priority however local communities know them well.

The idea that with financial support and partnering these records could be shared across the world assisting families to track their roots is indeed remarkable. This project will also serve to leave a provincial and international legacy for our Branches and its members who have given of themselves, many for more than 50 years and some for 75. Service of this magnitude to one organization is rarely heard of. Each Branch including those disbanded will receive recognition for the volumes that are digitized so that borrowers will know who created these outstanding records.

Tweedsmuir Histories will live on through the work of the Ontario Genealogical Society and the contributors of this very worthwhile project.

The contract between OGS and FWIO has been signed and together funding will be pursued to begin this project. OGS staff will do the digitizing of the Histories, repair any

*Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario*