



**Mrs. Albert Samells
Thain McKenzie (pseud.)**

Marj's aunt

1892-1975

Helen Marion MacDonald Samells was born at Cruickshank near Shallow Lake and in later years was often thought of as 'first' lady of Bruce County because so many of her adventures were 'First' of their kind for the district.

The Samells gave their home for the first folk school in Canada. It was Mrs. Samells who spearheaded the first rural credit union in Ontario. She also had a major role in establishing the Women's Institute Park at Sauble Beach; the Community Church at Sauble Beach and the Sauble Falls Provincial Park.

Along with these achievements, she also made time to serve various boards. She was director on the board of the United Farm Women of Ontario; was chairman of Bruce County Beautification Bureau; President of the North Bruce Women's Institute at which time she saw seven institutes organized including one at Cape Croker. She also sat on the Provincial Women's Institute Board to represent the Counties of Huron, Bruce, North Perth and North Wellington and for many years was secretary-treasurer for the Sauble Beach Community Church.

As a writer, her work was published under the pseudonym Thain McKenzie. Many of her articles were printed in The Farmer's Advocate and the Women's Institute's Home and Country. She was the daughter of Isobel Cruickshank and William MacDonald.