

## What is Tweedsmuir History Book??

Anyone not acquainted with the work of the Women's Institutes would wonder why the Tweedsmuir History Book of Aldershot was so named. Lady Tweedsmuir, during her stay in Canada as wife of the Governor General, encouraged the Women's Institutes in the work of collecting the history of their areas. In a message to these groups she said, "I am so glad to hear that Women's Institutes of Ontario are going to compile village history books. Events move very fast nowadays, homes are pulled down, new roads are made and the aspect of the countryside changes in a short time.

The oldest people in the village will tell us fascinating stories of what they remember... Your village histories will be the basis of accurate facts much valued by historians of the future. I am proud that you have called them "The Tweedsmuir Village Histories".

Historical Research conveners of the W I's were responsible. Some of the first information available on local history was from an old 50th anniversary booklet of St. Matthews church. Since then, documents, pictures and clippings have been added as well as letters and transcripts of recollections of long-time residents.

Photographs are there of old homes now sandwiched between modern bungalows. The John Filman family posed on the porch of their home, Willowbank, which was recently gutted by fire. The G.B. Long home and family are pictured; many street names in Aldershot, Townsend, Easterbrook, etc., recall former residents. Histories of churches, schools and clubs in the area are recorded.

Three years ago it was decided to put this

data into more orderly form. A volume was begun, each page encased in clear plastic to ensure the safety of the contents and all the typing has been done by Mrs. J.F. Carson and Mrs. E.J. Banks. Mrs. Howard Gallagher hand-lettered the captions under pictures.

Most of the old documents and pictures were photostated since families are reluctant to part with them. It is unfortunate that this small group of community-minded women are bearing the complete expense of this project.

The Aldershot branch of the Women's Institute of North Wentworth disbanded in April 1962 but the Tweedsmuir Historical group has carried on with its project. The convenor is Mrs. Harry Stevenson and the members are: Mrs. E. Banks, Mrs. W. Crouchley, Mrs. Howard Gallagher, Mrs. W. Burroughs, Mrs. E. Hunsperger, Mrs. J.F. Carson, Mrs. S. Wickens and Mrs. J. Quigley.

It is hoped to place the book (two volumes are so far being compiled) in a public building and thus be available to the whole community.