

# *Tweedsmuir Histories*

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*Provincial Convener of Historical Research  
and Current Events*

THE Provincial Tweedsmuir Competitions have again come and gone, and, as always, very beautiful and informative Tweedsmuir Histories have been entered. This year 56 of the 940 known Books were entered, and having seen many of them, I wish to congratulate the judges in their tedious task of picking three to go on to the Dominion Competition, as well as the ten for Honourable Mention.

May I stress, that although your Book did not receive the honour of a placing, it does not mean that your efforts are not appreciated or well worth while. On the contrary, it was delightful to have seen more Books than ever in the Competition, and each and every one of them showed a remarkable contribution to the preservation of localized history, as well as the time, the thought, and the many hours of work put into each one. It is truly marvellous to see the individualistic methods used in bringing out the historical data, human interest stories, and statistical information with pictures and articles in their appropriate sections.

The judges have made some suggestions which I would like to pass along to the Branches:

(a) Screen your articles, that they be about your locality only. Articles of other places, persons, and events not actually connected with your community should be deleted.

(b) "Tabs" depicting the various sections are an advantage for ready reference, but do have these "tabs" of plastic or some similar transparent material as they do not bend or break.

These histories are being written not only to preserve your local community history, but to show the type of community, and your own community achievements and advancements, as well as to preserve the memories of personalities, industries, buildings, roads and anything else of vital interest in the community. Draw your boundaries and do keep therein. Remember you are trespassing on another's territory if you record their historical data. Should a neighbouring branch not have a history, help them to get started. Just a beginning will stimulate someone interested and capable.

Careful selection of the Historical Research Convener and her committee will greatly aid in the compiling of our Histories. It is not necessary that each Book be compiled with the idea of Competitions, but instead think of it as something to be held in the Community as an authentic record of the past and present. Should any help be needed, do not hesitate to contact me; I am at the service of any branch

in Ontario, and will be only too glad to discuss any problems that confront you.

The question has arisen as to how to set up additional volumes where the original Book is becoming unwieldy. This, I feel, will have to be decided by the individual Book Committee. Here is a suggestion: If your Branch has been organized 35 to 50 years, for instance, you doubtless have a large number of pages in this section of your history. Then this whole section could be removed to another volume and called "Tweedsmuir History Book, Volume 2, W.I. Branch History." The same could be done with the section of Farm Histories. Do be careful that you have a strong connecting link between your volumes without overlapping the material in the original.

Have any of you felt that "exhibits" might replace these Provincial and Dominion Competitions? At some District Annuals, each branch exhibiting its History Book is given a dollar. Whenever the opportunity arises, let us have District or County Exhibits: at Spring Fairs, Hobby Shows, Historical Society Meetings, Library Exhibits, Fall Fairs, County Rallies, and any place else where a small number of books may be shown to advantage and where careful care can be taken of them. Remember at all times, they must be so placed as to not be handled by anyone but a specified person in charge.

Could we not let our schools, collegiates and colleges know that local histories are being compiled by the Women's Institutes? Arrange for displays at Open House, Education Week, Home and School Association Meetings, etc. History is definitely an education, and a subject loved by many; others would love it if they had a chance to learn by doing. Every member in our branches is capable of an historical contribution, no matter how trivial. Let this not be overlooked, but nurtured. It can and will surprise everyone.

## SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY IN 1957

As most Institute members know, the first Women's Institute was organized at Stoney Creek on February 19th, 1897. This means that the sixtieth anniversary of the Women's Institute movement will come on February 19, 1957.

It is an interesting coincidence that the founder of the movement, Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, was born in 1857 so 1957 will be the hundredth anniversary of her birth.

Already a provincial committee is working on plans for a provincial celebration of the sixtieth anniversary and any plans they make will be announced later. In the meantime, branch Institutes may want to arrange for local celebrations on February 19. It is possible that radio and television stations may produce features that can be worked into these local programmes. Watch for announcements of these.