



At Frontenac Women's Institute District booth at Kingston Exhibition, placards show the steps in writing and presenting a resolution and Institute members with worn and strong overall pockets as exhibits explain the reason for the resolution asking for more durable material and workmanship in the manufacture of men's overalls.

Preserving Local History

Last May the Women's Institute at Grand Bend, working with the village council and the Aux Sable River Conservation Authority which has an Historical Sites committee in its organization, was instrumental in having a plaque erected to mark the site of Brewster's Dam. The story of Brewster's Dam is an excellent example of the sort of local history that should be preserved in Tweedsmuir histories. Most of it is engraved on the marker where it should be of interest to visiting tourists and to local people of the present and future generations. This is the story as we have it from Mrs. Harold Walper:

"In 1830 the Scottish and English settlers came along the Indian trails to this area through forests of stately pines. Among the group was a shrewd Scotsman named Brewster, who saw the possibilities of a profitable lumber business. The Canada Land Company chartered in 1826 by the British Government held large tracts of land. From this company Brewster purchased land south of the bend in the river Aux Sable in 1832. Here he erected a sawmill and obtained permission to build a dam across the river. Soon a settlement grew up and was called Brewster.

"Brewster post office with Brewster as postmaster, established about 1853, was situated at the junction of highway 83 and 21. This post office continued in operation until about 1912 when rural mail delivery came into being.

"The land south of Brewster Mill was low and drainage poor and sluggish. The Brewster Dam caused the water to back up and aggravated the flooding conditions so much that often the lands to the south were under water much of the time. This condition caused the settlers much hardship, since their crops were frequently drowned out. The Canada Company, aware of the feeling of unrest against Brewster and his dam, entered suit against Brewster for erecting the dam. This, however, was unsuccessful since the company had in the first place given permission to build the dam.

"After a number of years of privation and hardship the settlers decided to take matters in their own hands. Accordingly they met one night

in the early 1860's armed with what weapons they could muster, advanced upon the dam and mill. The dam was torn out and the mill burned. The road connecting Brewster and Goderich was built in 1850. The settlement name was changed to Grand Bend and a post office established in 1871.

"Some remnants of the dam still remain but no other sign of the original settlement can be found."

A Live Historical Event

Mrs. James Brown, President of North Lanark District Women's Institutes sends this report of the historical exhibit and programme provided by the Institutes at the North Lanark Agricultural Centenary Fair:

"At the request of the Fair Board" writes Mrs. Brown, "we assembled the furnishings of an early Ontario home complete with fireplace with crane and kettle. Each of the twelve branches contributed articles and it was definitely the centre of attraction from the minute Mrs. Haggerty cut the ribbon on Thursday till the show closed on Saturday evening.

"After declaring the home open, Mrs. Haggerty gave a delightful talk which was broadcast to all parts of the hall. Then the Ramsay branch served tea, assisted by the Almonte branch, all the women dressed in old-fashioned dresses. Tea was poured by the F.W.I.O. Board member, Mrs. Frank Rodgers from a tea service one hundred and fifty years old.

"On Thursday evening the Union Hall branch staged an old-time sing-song, accompanied by Mrs. Roy Robertson playing an organ from the Pakenham church where it was first used over one hundred years ago.

"On Friday afternoon the Appleton members, dressed in old-time costumes, spent the afternoon quilting and receiving their friends. A spinning demonstration by a lady from Pakenham branch took place on Saturday afternoon and attracted a great deal of attention, as did several Pakenham members who received the visitors wearing wedding dresses of the last century."

A Community Christmas Celebration

"The entire Village of Camden East backed the Women's Institute gigantic Christmas effort which added much colour to the holiday tide and



At a Kent county Leaders' Training School on the project "New Lamps for Old," the instructor, Miss Jeanne Armour, demonstrates drafting a lampshade pattern.