

Froomefield Women's Institute decided to restore a long-neglected cemetery that contained the remains of men and women who made the history of their tiny community.

The cemetery was originally the site of a church built by Froomefield's first residents, Froome and Field Talfourd in 1840. The church was named St. Mary's Anglican church and given by Mr. Talfourd and his wife to the Diocese of Toronto in 1845. The records are not clear but it was likely in use until 1880 before being moved to Sarnia Indian Reserve as a mission. (Earlier, in 1869 it had been completely rebuilt.)

Once the church was gone, the graveyard became a desolate spot, its white slab tombstones buried in long grass and weeds, or toppling over until the locations of many graves were lost.

Then the Women's Institute went to work, the members' husbands helping them to clear the rubble, cut the giant weeds and scythe the heavy grass. In 1954 with financial help from Moore township council they repaired the run-down fences, kept up the grounds and planted bulbs donated by the local horticultural society. In 1955 they put in annuals and drew up landscaping plans. In 1956 there was planted a hedge on three sides and shrubs on the fourth with ornamental evergreens filling in the corners. In 1957 rose bushes were planted and a field stone in a cement base was erected bearing a plaque "In memory of Pioneer Settlers of Froomefield by the Women's Institute."

Each year petunias and geraniums now bloom in front of the plaque. Last year a flowering crab, Canada's Centennial tree, was planted. This year the women plan to erect a sign passersby can see. Next year and in 1967, the Institute will think of something more to enhance their cemetery-park.—From "Centennial, Ontario"

Local Effort Builds a Hall

By Mrs. E. W. Briese

ALLSWATER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE had a little money saved to build a hall a number of years ago; then some of our good members passed away and some moved away. At one time we were down to seven or eight members then up to eleven or twelve, made a little more money, bought and paid for an acre of land, also bought cement blocks and had the basement wall put up. With volunteer help the frame work went up and it was all closed in, doors cut out but not windows. The work stood still again for a year or two as we didn't want to get into debt, but last fall we thought we must do something about it as such a nice building should not stand idle while we had to pay rent for another hall for any special occasion.

We asked some of the younger husbands who had offered to help if they would put in some windows which we had bought. They put in three. There were still two door frames to make and two doors to be hung. An experienced carpenter, eighty-eight years of age brought his power saw, made door frames and with the help of another and one of the young men, cut out for another window, installed it and hung the doors.

The women put in all the insulation, including the ceiling. The two men cut the inside wall-board and placed it and the women nailed most of it. We afterwards gave the eighty-eight-year-old a birthday party and presented him with a rocking chair.

Institute meetings have since been held in the hall, also 4-H Club meetings and a community Christmas party.

Lights have been installed. A summer resident supplied the wire and all material for wiring the hall and he, with some of the local young men, did the wiring; and at the Christmas party he announced that this was all a donation to the Women's Institute.



Tea-hour following a meeting of Picnic Grove Institute in the centre they have made in a renovated school house. Some Institutes complain that young women won't come to meetings because they can't leave their children. Evidently children don't create any problem here.