

A Grandmother's Legacy



By Rosella Clancy

In the late '70s, I began researching my family. My intent was to document my findings as accurately as possible. I used the many avenues common to researchers - interviews with family members, records of births and deaths, tombstone inscriptions and census, church and Loyalist records.

Researching also brought me in contact with like-minded relatives. We exchanged data resulting in additional pages for my numerous three-ring binders. Our children, however, were not unique in their lack of interest for family history. It seems many young adults disregard their "roots" until the older generations are unable to answer their questions.

Undaunted, I condensed my research, laser copied pictures and wrote personal stories to give our grandchildren the insight their parents rejected. I wanted this effort to hold appeal to my readers as young people and later as adults.

I began with myself and moved backwards to my parents and grandparents, with a line-styled ancestry chart giving a simplified understanding to the many generations. Handwritten

recipes, wedding invitations and profiles were included. Picture coverage ranged from my grandchildren to their fifth great grandmother. I selected pictures which revealed the interests and life styles of my ancestors. Pets, the first car and snow ploughing rural roads with teams of horses are examples. The laminated cover of my *Legacy* combines my art work with computer-styled lettering.

In keeping with my efforts, one curator initiated a new Tweedsmuir subsection for wedding pictures and newspaper coverage of the marriages, with copied submissions requested.

Grandmother's Treasures could be another subsection. Pictures could be combined with a brief profile of grandmother, the treasure's use and how it was acquired. The presentations could be arranged as a Branch program before inclusion in the Tweedsmuir.

One Branch invited elderly members and community individuals to a tea where the guests had their recollections recorded. (I hope all were given advance notice so they might prepare their thoughts and reflect on the past before the interviews.) The January 1998 edition of *Canadian Living* magazine printed an article by Vera Rosenbluth entitled "Keeping Family Stories Alive: Discovering and Recording the Stories and Reflections of a Lifetime." It included many suggestions on the finer points of interviewing older family members. Maybe your library has this magazine in its collection.

Rosella Clancy is the Tweedsmuir History Curator for the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. She can be reached at Box 63, Stirling ON K0K 3E0, Phone: (613)395-2615.

NOTES FROM THE PROVINCIAL OFFICE

Life Membership Fund - This fund can be changed for any use, but only with approval of the FWIO Board of Directors. A motion to change the mandate would be required.

Scholarship Fund - The principle in these funds should never be used. If the interest is more than the Scholarship issued and the administration costs, the excess interest could be used as determined by the FWIO Board of Directors. If the interest is not covering the expenses the Scholarship amount could be changed. If the original principle was a bequest from an individual or company (etc.) other than FWIO, the fund can never be changed. However, if the original donation was made with FWIO funds and a Board motion, then the fund designation can be changed by another Board motion.

Headquarters Fund - This fund falls under a 10-year rule that will not allow FWIO to touch the principle until the ten years are completed. At that time a Board motion would allow a change to be made. The interest can be used.

If you have any Provincial Office related questions, do not hesitate to call. Lynn Ruigrok, the Executive Assistant, is available Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at (519)836-3078.

Treasured Dolls



Hilda Pegg (left), Secretary-Treasurer of the Rutherford Women's Institute, sits with Mary Catherine Elliott from Shetland, Ontario. They sit amongst the dolls, craft items and toys about to be boxed for delivery to Child Life and the WI Auxillary of the South Western Ontario Sick Children's Hospital in London. The nine members of the Rutherford WI got together to sew these special companions for hospitalized children. They made chemo-dolls and finger-puppet bandaid covers after talking to Mary Catherine and her mom, who were the local connection to the Child Life group. Five years ago Mary Catherine was the recipient of a still-treasured chemo doll.

Submitted by Hilda Pegg, Secretary-Treasurer, Rutherford WI, South Lambton.