

# Glen Morris WI Honours Tweedsmuir Curator

By Gladys McCrea

## The Patchwork Quilt

*We are given a handful of patches*

*And told a quilt to make*

*It all depends on the workmanship*

*And the kind of stitches to take*

*You can make a lovely pattern*

*If we only work aright*

*Smoothing the ragged edges*

*Balancing dark and light*



Pictured above, from left to right, are Gladys McCrea, President, Glen Morris WI, Beatrice Robson, Branch member, Hester Walker, recipient of the award and Tweedsmuir Curator, and Alice Aitkin, Branch member.

How can this poem have anything to do with Tweedsmuir History Books? How can it have anything to do with Hester Walker, Tweedsmuir Curator for the Glen Morris Women's Institute Branch? Well, to answer these questions, let's go over the verse outlining the analogy.

### *We are given a handful of patches*

This refers to the variety of newspaper clippings, old and new pictures, family histories, programs, maps, local reports, and the many other records of historical significance that Hester Walker collected to create the four volumes of Tweedsmuir History, which include the history of the WI, village, community and local personalities.

### *And told a quilt to make*

Hester was inspired, encouraged and challenged to write our Tweedsmuir History. In 1951, Hester placed second in the Canada-wide Tweedsmuir Competition for her work on the history of the community of Glen Morris. In 1953, she won the national competition and the Tweedsmuir Trophy was presented to her by FWIO President Edith Purcell at the Hamilton Area Convention. Since, Hester has won twice at the provincial level.

### *It all depends on the workmanship*

A local newspaper reported that "hours of patient research work and the attractive presentation of historic records have resulted in

an outstanding history book of the Glen Village and community. It was described by one of the judges as "breath taking, beautiful and deserving of a place in the art gallery."

### *And the kind of stitches to take*

Hester's choice of paper, type size, print style and the layout of material on the page resulted in an outstanding Tweedsmuir collection. Much time also must have been spent in researching and cross-checking the authenticity of the information.

### *You can make a lovely pattern*

*If we only work aright*

*Smoothing the ragged edges*

*Balancing dark and light*

Our WI members, geneologists, students, newcomers to the community and the curious enjoy the "lovely pattern" of the completed Tweedsmuir volumes. Hester crafted attractive covers for the books depicting the river and local community buildings.

Members of the Glen Morris Women's Institute acknowledged Hester's dedication and work on the Tweedsmuir Volumes recording the history of their village and community by presenting her with a plaque and bouquet of roses.

Gladys McCrea is President of the Glen Morris Women's Institute Branch in the Brant North District.

## Tips on Working with Volunteers

- Treat them as an equal and vital part of your staff.
- Have written job descriptions for them that are clear and specific.
- Help them understand where they "fit" in the overall picture.
- Train them to do their work.
- Treat them fairly.
- Be open with them about problems and challenges; don't try to "spare" them details they'll hear anyway!
- Catch them being good and praise them.
- Don't offer praise when it's not deserved.
- Utilize their gifts - don't "use" them.
- Don't make unrealistic demands on their time and resources.
- Be clear about time demands and then honour them; don't assume that if they said they could give you four hours on a Saturday that they can really give you eight.
- Listen for lame excuses of why work isn't done; it may be a cry to "get me out of this job."
- If a volunteer is not performing the job they signed up for, even with offers of help, remove them from that job and either assign them lesser responsibility or allow them to "retire" with honour.
- Get to know them on a personal basis and show an interest in them as a unique individual.
- Evaluate, with their input, the work they are doing; never "evaluate" them personally.
- Try to place them in a job where they can use their natural talents or experiences so that they will be successful.
- Celebrate their success.
- Call them by name.
- Find out their birthday and mail them a card.
- Never talk "down" to them. (They are probably smarter than you!)
- Respect their other demands. (Volunteers are not put on this earth for your use alone!)
- Encourage humour and fun while working.
- Accept their different motivations as OK.
- Enable them to be the best they can be!

This information was taken from *101 Ways to Raise Resources* by Sue Vineyard and Steve McCurley, available from Volunteer Ontario, 2 Dunbloor Rd., Suite 203, Etobicoke, Ontario, M9A 2E4, (416)236-0588.

