

Our earliest Minute Books contain the Rules and Regulations for Women's Institutes in which we learn that "each women's institute shall be in affiliation with the farmers' institutes in the district". The Institute year ended May 31. The first record of a District W.I. is of Centre Bruce District which had Cash on Hand May 31, 1903 of \$2.82. There was no balance recorded for May 31, 1903 so the District must have come into being after that. Membership fees that year were \$20.55. At 25¢ per member, that makes 82 members in the District. The records for Kincardine that year show -

Cash on hand May 31/04	\$2.82
Members fees	\$4.00

Mrs. J.C. Seymour of Paisley was Sec.-tres.
Geo. A. Putnam was Supt. of Institutes

In 1905, Branches in District are Paisley, Kincardine and Ripley. Branches began getting a grant of \$3.00 each year from Dept. of Agric.

The Annual District meeting was held at the same time and place as the farmers' annual meeting. The following Advertisement is for the Annual Meeting held on June 6th, 1907.

"Centre Bruce Farmers Institute will hold their annual meeting and judging demonstration at Linden Hall, the home of Mr. A.C. Paterson, South Side, Kincardine Town, commencing at 1.30 p.m.

A business meeting for the election of officers and the transaction of general business will be held at 1 o'clock sharp. After which a Judging Demonstration on both horses and cattle will be held, conducted by Prof. Day of the Ontario Agricultural College, of Guelph. The animals to be used in the stock demonstration will be from the herd of Mr. R.H. Reid, of Pine River.

The Ladies Branch of the Institute will hold their Annual Meeting at the same time and place which will be addressed by Dr. Annie Backus.

John Tolmie M.P. and Hugh Clark M.P.P. are expected to be present and address the meeting. After the meeting is over lunch will be served by the Ladies on Mr. Paterson's lawn. Everybody come and be entertained as well as instructed."

1906 Topics- Storing vegetables, paper from Mrs. Hoodless "Caring for the Sick". Housecleaning and Breadmaking. 1906 we hear first mention of W.I. pins.

Sept. 6, 1906, in Kincardine, Bishop Stringer's wife talked about the Eskimos, their housekeeping and cooking and showed some curiosities.

"The Annual Meeting of Centre Bruce Women's Institute was held on June 5, 1906 at the farm home of Mr. Bowers south of Ripley. About 90 women were present. All the general officers were present and some of the directors of that vicinity. Officers elected- Pres. Mrs. Don McIntyre; Sec.-tres. Mrs. E.R. Seymour; Vice-pres. Mrs. J.F. Jackson". Also "directors elected - Kincardine Mrs. Wm. Bell, Mrs. Jno. Watson, Mrs. T. Hardie
Ripley Mrs. Wm. R. McDonald, Mrs. Jas Steele
Paisley Mrs. McGilvray Mrs. E.R. Seymour, Mrs. D. McIntyre, Mrs. Conn."

This was the Fifth District Annual. The first was held at Paisley, second at Glanville, third at Ripley, fourth at Paisley, fifth at Ripley and sixth at Kincardine.

June 25, 1909 we read that Bervie W.I. organized and also Williscroft.

Sept. 1909, Chesley organized

March 10, 1912, Reids Corners organized Feb 21 1913

1911- Armow organized. and Pinkerton

Miss Laura Rose a speaker and organizer sent out by Dept. of Agric.

1910- Convention held in Toronto instead of Guelph.

Feb. 1912- Kincardine had 10th Anniversary.

Ripley began holding regular meetings Nov. 1908

1914- Branches in District were- Kincardine, Bervie, Reids Corners, Ripley, Chesley, Williscroft, Pinkerton, Paisley and Armow.

1913- telephone calls first mentioned in expenses

1915- Convention in London

Topics at this time- Raising chickens and getting them ready for market

What I think would be an ideal home

The home reading table

Care of cream and making butter

Household share of the income

What we learn by attending exhibitions

What a submarine is

How to use the franchise intelligently

Relationship between the home and school

Value of change of air

1918- Medical inspection in the schools

1925- at Pinkerton District Annual - the delegates sent a request to Miss Ethel Chapman to have Chesley, Paisley and Narva (Pinkerton) included in same district as Tara, Tiverton, and Port Elgin. So next year representatives were appointed from the 3 Bruce Districts to decide on changing districts.