



Shown above is the Eden Grove Women's Institute float depicting 1897 and 1967.

## WERE THE FIRST AND SECOND WHITE GIRLS BORN IN BRANT

At the November meeting of the Walkerton Women's Institute, held at the home of Mrs. O. McClevis, a framed picture of the first white girl born in Brant Township was given to the convener of the Historical Committee, Mrs. McClevis, by the Misses Bertha and Clara Inglis of Walkerton, who are relatives of the late Mrs. Donald Sinclair.

For sometime the controversy existed as to whom was the first white girl born in Brant. Records reveal that Isabella Adair has that distinction. She was a daughter of Thomas Adair and Margaret Inglis Adair, being born October 20th, 1850 on Con. 2, N.D.R. in Brant Township. She was married in April 26th, 1871,

to Donald Sinclair, Registrar of Bruce County. She died December 28th, 1926. At her christening, she had been given the title of "Queen of Brant."

Jane Gowanlock, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gowanlock, was born August 16th, 1851, in Brant Township, on Lot 56, Con. 2, N.D.R.. She would therefore be the second white girl born in Brant as far as records show. She was married in 1874 to Mr. John A. McGill of Walkerton.

Both these framed pictures hang in the I.O.D.E. room at the Town Hall.

The Gowanlock picture was painted from a tin-type by the late Miss Agnes Ritchie, a native of Walkerton.

## MUSEUM RECEIVES SPEAKER'S CHAIR

This summer the chair used by Donald Sinclair when he was Speaker of the Ontario House of Parliament for several years prior to 1883, was presented to the Bruce County Museum at Southampton. Donald Sinclair was born in the Island of Islay, Scotland, in July 1829. He immigrated to Canada with his parents in 1851, who settled the following year in Arran Twp. Sinclair came to Bruce in 1853 and followed the profession of a school-teacher here, and also later in the vicinity of Toronto. From 1858 he was permanently a resident of Bruce. In 1863 he was elected deputy reeve of Arran. In 1869 Mr. Sinclair moved to Paisley and carried on a general store. In the general election of 1867 he was elected as member of the house of Assembly, by acclamation, for the riding of North Bruce. This seat he held until 1883, when he was appointed Registrar of Deeds for the County of Bruce, and moved to Walkerton, where he remained a resident until his death. In April, 1874, he married Isabelle, daughter of Thomas Adair, and had a family of two sons and three daughters. In politics he was a Liberal. In religious behalf he was a Baptist. Mr. Sinclair possessed a character for uprightness and integrity, ever having the courage to uphold his convictions. His death occurred November 19th, 1900, at Toronto, where he had gone to obtain medical advice. He was buried at Southampton. — Bruce County Historical Society Bulletin.