

ORIGIN OF THE TWEEDSMUIR HISTORIES

During Lord Tweedsmuir's term as Gov.-General of Canada, his wife, the Lady Tweedsmuir, showed great interest in the Women's Institute movement, and frequently attended local branch meetings. It was at a Women's Institute meeting in portland on the Rideau Lakes, that Lady Tweedsmuir launched the idea of the Tweedsmuir Village Histories. Her suggestion was, that the Institutes all over Canada, should each adopt the project of collecting sketches, prints, poems, prose, legends, and memories of the older citizens, thus guarding the traditions of their homes and making a bridge between events of to-day and those of long ago. And these Village Histories, she said, would form a basis, of accurate facts much valued by historians of the future.

The undertaking was begun in 1940, and has stirred up quite an interest in history in general, and in the marking of historical sites, and maintenance of local museums.

The Foreword written by Lady Tweedsmuir says in part, "I am so glad to hear that the Women's Institutes of Ontario are going to compile village history books. Events move very fast nowadays; houses pulled down, new roads are made, and the aspect of the countryside changes completely sometimes in a short time. It is a most useful and satisfying task for W.I. members to see that nothing valuable is lost or forgotten. After all, it is the history of humanity which is continually interesting to us. I am proud to think that you have called them 'The Tweedsmuir Village Histories'".

One W.I. member has this to say, "When I began my Tweedsmuir History,