

THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT of the  
STONEY CREEK INSTITUTE.

The Women's Institute movement as almost everyone knows, had its origin in the historic village of Stoney Creek--four miles east of Hamilton on the highway leading to Niagara Falls and in the County of Wentworth.

It is a strange coincidence that both the Farmers' Institute and the Women's Institute ~~also~~ should have their origin in Wentworth County. For 13 years before the first W.I. was formed there was in Wentworth a Farmers's Institute, organized through the efforts and influence of the late Public School Inspector, Mr. J.H. Smith, ably assisted by Mr. Erland Lee, one of the most intelligent and broadminded farmers of Saltfleet Township, and it was at an evening meeting of this Farmers's Institute, at which the women were present, that Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless<sup>of Hamilton</sup> (after giving an address on Mr. Lee's invitation) suggested that the women form an Institute for the women, similar to the Farmer's Institute for the men.

As it was too late in the evening to discuss the matter, it was decided that the women would meet the following week.

On Friday, February 19th 1897---49 years ago yesterday---Mrs. Hoodless again came to ~~St~~/St/ Stoney Creek and found awaiting her in Squire's Hall -----101 women and one man---needless to say that man was Mr. Lee and he acted as chairman for the evening.

After much discussion and argument, it was decided to organize a "Woman's Department of Domestic Economy in affiliation with the Farmer's Institute" to be known as the "The Women's Institute of Saltfleet" now called "Stoney Creek W.I.

The following officers were elected---Hon. Pres. Mrs. Hoodless...Pres..Mrs. E.D.Smith.. Sec. Mrs. M.Nash.....Treas. Mrs. J.H.McNeilly