

FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF ONTARIO CONVENERS' CONFERENCE

MAY 1951

On Compiling the Tweedsmuir History Book

by Mrs. Sanford Aikins, Creemore,  
Provincial Convener  
Historical Research and Current Events

When the Lady Tweedsmuir was resident in Ottawa, Canada, she honoured us by accepting a life membership in the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, and by acting as our Honorary President. In her farewell address she gave us this message of inspiration.

(I quote) to my friends and fellow members of the Women's Institute, I would like to say how much I hope they will press on with their work in education and in all other lines. I have so much enjoyed my association with them here, and, though I have not been able to answer many kind letters sent to me in the last month, I would like to say how grateful I am to receive them. I hope that the Canadian and British Women's Institute will always be linked together in the friendship and closest association, and that we shall continue to work as ardently in the future for the welfare of the countryside as we have done in the past.

(unquote) Through the consent of The Lady Tweedsmuir, the wife of the late Governor General of Canada, and now of Elsfeld Manor, Oxford, England, the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario decided to keep from being forgotten to name of Tweedsmuir by compiling histories.

In one of The Lady Tweedsmuir visits to Women's Institutes, she suggested that the members might enjoy compiling Village Books as do the women of England and Scotland.

Since the idea of the Village Books originated with The Lady Tweedsmuir, the Sec. of the F.W.I.O., Mrs. W.B. Leatherdale was instructed in 1940 to ask the consent of The Lady Tweedsmuir and to invite her to select a name and to write a foreword for our books. The Women's Institute sought permission from Lady Tweedsmuir to give the history books a name in keeping with the Tweedsmuir tradition, that the Institute might pay tribute to the memory of Lord Tweedsmuir and show its appreciation for his interest in the organization and at the same time to honour The Lady Tweedsmuir.