

By Mrs. A.E. Walker

of the Australian and New Zealand Institutes, having visited them the previous year in company with Mrs. Watt.

The third event to which I wish to refer, occurred last February, when the Stony Creek, or Mother Institute, celebrated, in a very fitting manner, its fortieth birthday, at which were present several charter members and past presidents. This celebration was doubly significant, in that it marked also, the fortieth anniversary of the inception of the Institute movement.

To further commemorate this fortieth anniversary, I have been asked to tell you to-day the true and unbiased story of the founding of the Institute movement, not forgetting the pioneer men and women, to whom we are indebted for the organization.

Much of this information I gathered fifteen years ago, when at the request of the Ontario Superintendent, Mr. Putnam, I prepared a paper on the subject for the silver anniversary of the movement. The information is authentic, in that it was gleaned from the first minute book, from the pioneer leaders themselves, all of whom I knew personally, and from Mrs. Hoodless's papers loaned me by her daughter, Mrs. Bostwick.

It will be ancient history to many of you, but for some, it may be the means of disabusing their minds of many false impressions which have gone abroad as to how, when, where and why the Institute was organized.

As you no doubt know the first Women's Institute was organized February 19th, 1897, in the little historic village of Stony Creek,