

invited and of course the evening turned out to be a social event.

About 1913-14 the Farmer's Institute ceased to exist in Thurlow.

In February 1897 saw the first formal organization of a Women's Institute in Ontario through the combined efforts of Mr. Erland Lee of the Farmer's Institute and Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless.

A meeting held at Read in 1901 to organize the East Hastings District with Miss Blanche Maddock sent out by the Farmer's Institute for the purpose, resulted in a branch being formed at Foxboro and at Spencer's within the township. Other branches were organized in the years to follow ----some with a short existence, other still flourishing.

The Department sent out good speakers who lectured on a variety of subjects. Miss Laura Rose, Miss Blanche Maddock, Miss Campbell and Miss Gray are a few of the early ones sent to speak. During the early years there were opponents and critics and indifferent. Eventually many of the critical and the indifferent became faithful members and excellent officers.

Following is a list of the W.I. Branches within the township of Thurlow in the order of their organization -

1901 - Foxboro - disbanded in 1918. The group had worked enthusiastically in war work during 1914 - 18 and when the war was over they failed to re-organize into W. I. work, however, they re-organized in 1949.

1901 - Spencer's - disbanded in 1906. The name of the Branch was derived from the School on the 2nd of Thurlow.

1907 - Quinte

1908 - Roslin

1910 - Plainfield

1912 - Phillipston - later became known as Bethel-Zion.

1913 - Bethany - disbanded after World War 1.

1913 - Halston - disbanded after World War 1.

1949 - Carmel

1950 - Cannifton - Corbyville

Branches were also organized within the city but they ceased to exist after World War 1. Other branches in the surrounding townships help to make a strong womens organization in the East Hastings District.

The Women's Institute is an interdenomenational group and the motto chosen was "For Home and Country."