

ERLAND LEE HOMESTEAD

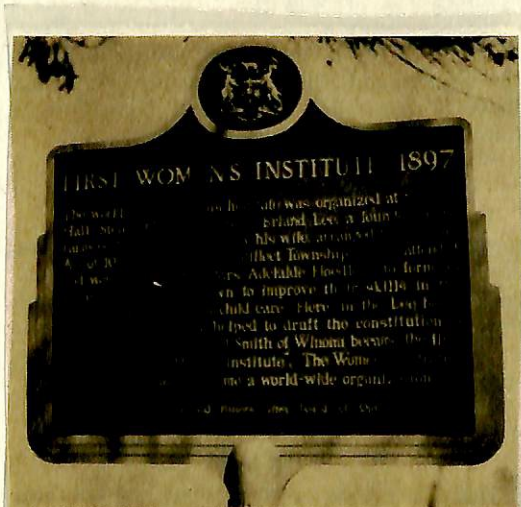
The Ontario Women's Institute spent \$40,000.00 for the Erland Lee home and is maintaining it as a shrine and showplace for people to see where the W.I. was born.

Mr. Lee was the man who invited Adelaide Hunter Hoodless to speak to 101 women at a ladies' night at the South Wentworth Farmer's Institute February 19, 1897. The immediate result was another meeting held six days later, at which Mrs. Hoodless was elected honorary president and Mrs. E.D. Smith of Winona, president of a new women's organization. Mr. Lee drew up the original constitution and Mrs. Lee handwrote it at a dining room table in the old house.

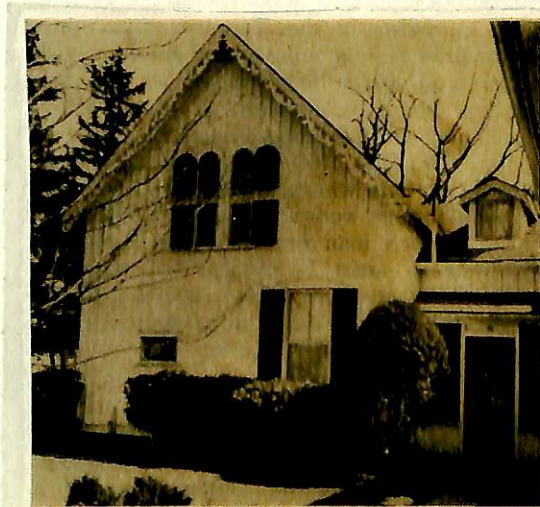
The home remained in the Lee family until the Federated Women's institutes of Ontario (FWIO) bought it, after several years of heart-searching over the problems involved in operating it. They restored it to the 1850's, the era when it was built. Donations of furniture came in from institute members, and some of the Lee furnishings remain including the famous walnut dining room table on which the first Constitution of the Women's Institute was written.

The idea to buy the home came to the FWIO originally from the Wentworth County W.I. The county helped the cause, as did Saltfleet Township and Stoney Creek, plus the provincial home economics branch. The home will be a provincial project for a long time to come. It was officially opened August 9, 1973.

Rednersville Women's Institute visited the Erland Lee home in June 1975.



Plaque erected by the Ontario Archaeological and Historic Sites Board at the Erland Lee Home.



The Erland Lee Home — a side view showing the entrance to the apartment for the hostess and to the Pioneer Kitchen.