

HISTORY OF CONSECON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Taken from W.I. minute books.

Consecon Women's Institute was organized in June 1913 by Mrs Johnathon Talcott of Bloomfield at the home of Mrs. Wilfred W. Ward. Those present were - Mrs. W.W. Ward, Mrs. Harmon Weeks, Mrs. Geo. Maidens and daughters Lena and Mae, Mrs. Joe Thompson and daughter Lulu, Mrs. Tom Clarke, Mrs. Jack MacDonald and Miss Nina Stapleton. Since Mrs. Ward was the instigator of having an Institute she was elected President. Mrs. Geo. Maidens became Secretary with the help of her daughters Lena and Mae. All members proved to be the most loyal and hard working persons. They planned interesting meetings and gained new members rapidly.



The meetings were held at night since the President taught school and so many members were Mason's wives. The meetings were held on Friday evening on or before full moon to coincide with the Masonic meetings.

Programs first were written then typed and finally printed. In making out programs they tried to include all members, giving each one something to hear, something to see and something to do and had material that would benefit the community. Much mention is made of guest speakers and District officers for educational and interesting programs.

In 1914 the first World War broke out and the W.I. really did a marvellous job rolling bandages, making quilts and articles of clothing for overseas. Eighteen boxes were sent monthly to the Consecon boys overseas. These contained home made cake, cookies, candy, marmalade, socks, soap, cigarettes, etc. The money for this work came entirely from donations from a monthly canvass in the community. The Masonic Lodge was a very good friend of the W.I. The Bush girls (Dorcas, Caroline and Annie) knitted over 100 pairs of socks.

Armistice was declared very suddenly in 1919 and the W.I. was left with quite a bit of money on hand. They decided to spend it for the boys who gave their lives. The hospital at Picton was being brought into existence at that time so it was decided to furnish a room in their memory. Donations were given annually for a number of years toward this project.

Mention is made in the older minute books of a Girls Institute. This was disbanded in 1919 and their members joined the Senior W.I.

At the March meeting in 1919 a motion was passed to rent the Presbyterian building, known as the Marsh Store, the rent of \$1 per month, to be paid 6 months in advance. This building was later moved on the corner of Stinson block and used as a butcher shop by Herman Alyea.



FIRST BRANCH PRES
ALSO
DISTRICT PRES