

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

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The century in which we live, and which is so quickly drawing to its close, has been an era of enormous change. The whole world has been involved in a period of growing pains wherein we have experienced at the same time both unspeakable tragedy and sincere efforts toward human betterment. As women, we have attained a position of merited importance in a country where, when the century began, we were not even allowed to vote.

We have seen so much of what has been accomplished by that movement to which has been applied the term, Women's Lib. But the change to which I refer has been a development, not a demand for certain rights and privileges. It has been a steady and lasting growth whereby women have striven and will continue to strive for whatever will be a benefit to HOME AND COUNTRY and the welfare of women and children anywhere in the world.

As Institute members we don't need to be reminded of the birth of our organization in the little group of Women at Stony Creek at the turn of the century.

As the movement spread, by 1908 several branches of the Women's Institute were organized in Prince Edward County. Consecon branch which dates back to 1913 is proud to have you share in the celebration of our 75th anniversary.

On April 22, 1913 a meeting of local women was held at the home of Mrs. W.W. Ward, North Lakeside with Mrs. Jonathan Talcott of Bloomfield giving expert guidance to the proceedings. Mrs. Ward, Rae Weeks to her Consecon friends, was a dedicated teacher in several local schools when married teachers were most unusual. It was she who was elected to be president of the newly formed Consecon Branch, a position which she held for nine busy years. Mrs. Ward was to find a loyal supporter in her capable secretary, Mrs. George Maidens.

Those early meetings were held mainly on the Friday evening on or before the full moon - - - not a matter of superstition or of romance ---purely a matter of convenience. The automobile was not yet a common form of transportation; I suspect that lady drivers were even less common. Rural wives found it most convenient to be accompanied by a