

ASHWORTH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

"FOREWORD"

I am so glad to hear that the Women's Institutes of Ontario are going to compile village history books. Events move very fast nowadays; houses are pulled down, new roads are made, and the aspect of the countryside changes completely sometimes in a short time.

It is a most useful and satisfying task for Women's Institute members to see that nothing valuable is lost or forgotten, and women should be on the alert always to guard the traditions of their homes, and to see that the water colour sketches and prints, poems and prose legends should find their way into these books. The oldest people in the village will tell us fascinating stories of what they remember, which the younger members can write down, thus making a bridge between them and events which happened before they were born. After all, it is the history of humanity which is continually interesting to us, and your village histories will be the basis of accurate facts much valued by historians of the future. I am proud to think that you have called them "The Tweedsmuir Village Histories".



Lady Tweedsmuir

--Written by Lady Tweedsmuir.



Lord Tweedsmuir

Tweedsmuir-John Buchan, first Baron, historian and Novelist. Governor General of Canada, 1935-40, born August 26, 1875 in Perth, Scotland. Arrived in Montreal, February 11, 1940. Son of Rev. John Buchan and Helen Masterton. Educated at Glasgow University and Oxford. (B.A., 1889). Called to the Bar in 1901. Secretary to Lord Milner, high commissioner in South Africa, 1901-1903. For many years Buchan was partner and adviser to the publishing house of Thos. Nelson & Sons. During the 1st World War he was London Times Correspondent, then a major in the Intelligence Corps, and later a director in the Department of Information. He was a member of the House of Commons for the Scottish universities for 1927 until 1935.

He was appointed Governor General of Canada in February 1935 and assumed office in November. At this time he was created Baron Tweedsmuir of Elsfeld. During his term of office occurred the death of George V, the abdication of Edward VIII, the coronation of George VI, the Royal Tour of 1939 and finally the outbreak of the second World War. Lord Tweedsmuir was an indefatigable traveller who visited all parts of Canada, including the Far North.

He took a keen interest in literary matters: The Governor General's Library Awards were instituted with his co-operation. Despite his official duties he was able to continue his distinguished career as historian and novelist.

His voluminous writings include biographies and historical works such as A History of the Great War. (4 vols., 1921-22); Lord Minto (1924); Montrose (1928); and Oliver Cromwell (1934). He wrote long series of adventure novels of the best known are The Thirty-Nine Steps (1915) and Green Mantle (1916); and historical novels such as Midwinter (1923) and Witch Wood (1927). His last novel, Sick Heart River (1941), has a Canadian setting. His autobiography, Memory Holds the Door, appeared posthumously in 1940. His private library was presented to Queen's University by Col. and Mrs. R.S. McLaughlin, 1954. Tweedsmuir was the first Governor General to die in office.