

A Grandmother's Legacy

by May Shortidge
From Blackstock Women's Institute

Our Institute was organized on May 11, 1915 and by the name of Victorian Women's Institute until 1955. It was then known by Blackstock Women's Institute. The fee was only 25 cents and the meetings were held in the homes. We would often have to sit planks between chairs, with blankets to soften the seat, as there were so many of us. The children would sit on the floor at our feet. We had scripture & prayer readings at each meeting also current events were reported.

In 1974 we charged \$10.00 to quilt a quilt, now it is \$100.00 or more depending on the size of the quilt.

My first recollections of the Women's Institute was in 1935, I would be in my early teens. I had made a weed collection for the school fair, and one of the ladies asked me to bring it to the Women's Institute meeting and show & tell about it. I joined the Institute in 1949 and served as President several times. I lead girls club work for several years, before it was known as 4 H, I would be 1949. I learned more than the girls I think. In 1951 if we served a banquet, we charged \$1.50 a plate and we had card parties, we only charged