

MRS. JOHN A. BENNIE

DISTRICT PRESIDENT 1904

DISTRICT SECRETARY-TREASURER 1905-1912

Mrs. Bennie was born in Carbondale, Colorado, U.S.A. She was the former Minnie Gerkie. She met and married John Alexander Bennie who had gone from Beachburg as a young man, to Carbondale to work in the lead mines there. One daughter, Helen, was born to them. Later they returned to Beachburg and in 1904 Mrs. Bennie organized the Women's Institute and was its first President. In 1905 she organized the Westmeath Women's Institute.

Mrs. Bennie was presented with a silver tray from the North Renfrew Women's Institutes in recognition of her long term as Secretary of the district.

The Ottawa Citizen 1931

Mrs. James A. Bennie, a lady who was intensely interested in work of a philanthropic & humanitarian nature enthused a number of people in & around Beachburg with the ideals of the Women's Institute & at her home the first meeting was held & the first branch organized in 1904. She became Secretary of the branch & then Secretary of the district, continuing in this capacity for eight consecutive years. By many Mrs. Bennie is termed the mother of the W.I. in North Renfrew.

The 7. Fall Branch was reorganized on Sept 15 1905. By Mrs Bennie & Mrs Brown of B.burg.

*THIS NOTE WAS GIVEN TO ME BY A
GREAT NIECE - "DIXIE DITTBURNER"
IN 1996 - Dina Gregg, Curator
1996.*