

LORD AND LADY TWEEDSMUIR

John Buchan 1875-1940 Susan Grosvenor 1883-1977

As John Buchan, Lord Tweedsmuir was internationally famous for his writings which included fiction, biography and history. He was born in Scotland, and educated at the Universities of Glasgow and Oxford. He served on Lord Milner's staff in South Africa, became a director of Nelsons, the publishers, held a headquarters staff appointment in France during World War 1, became an assistant director of Reuters News Agency and was a member of parliament. He was raised to the peerage in 1935 and appointed Governor General of Canada. Lord and Lady Tweedsmuir quickly gained the respect and affection of Canadians.

Lady Tweedsmuir supported her husband in all his duties and took a special interest in rural Canadian women. In an address given at a convention of the Women's Institutes of Eastern Ontario she said: "The Women's Institute is one of the greatest adult educational movements in the world, and in order to continue the great work in which the Institutes have been engaged, there is need of still further education. Never be satisfied with anything but the best". Later on in her talk she said: " I think we are doing an important work, we country-women, but it is difficult because there is so much detail. You are all doing an enormous lot of unselfish work for other people, linked with equally good educational and agricultural work. A country-woman, who loves the country better than any place in the world, and who understands your problems, will be your friend at Rideau Hall, when you need her."

The influence of "our friend at Rideau Hall" lives on in Women's Institute in every Tweedsmuir History Book. She put the suggestion to the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario that each branch should gather together records of the past for a community history book. The response from branches was tremendous, and interest is as keen forty years later as when the first history committees started gathering information from scrapbooks, memories and records. It was a happy choice to call these records "Tweedsmuir Histories" in her honour.