

THE STORY OF TWEEDSMUIR HISTORIES

When Lord Tweedsmuir was appointed to the position of Governor General of Canada in 1935, his wife became actively interested in Women's Institute. He had been a newsman and an author under his own name John Buchan, before he was made a peer. The idea of recording information must have come naturally to Lady Tweedsmuir; during her stay in Canada, she realized that the social history of the country should be written down before it was forgotten. She asked the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario to begin to compile the stories of the past. Soon Women's Institute Branches were busy collecting their local history, and recording it in books. These books were first called "Tweedsmuir Village Histories"; now the books are known as "Tweedsmuir Histories".

Here on Queen's Line, a Tweedsmuir History Book was begun by Mrs. John Hawthorn. She presented her book to the Branch in 1947, in honour of one of the remaining charter members, Mrs. Thomas Guest, who was then seventy-six years old.

Later, Mrs. Leslie Davis, a daughter of Mrs. Guest, gave a lovely custom-made binder to the Branch. The information from Mrs. Hawthorn's book was transferred to it. When that book was filled, a second volume was started.

In our books we have: farm and family histories, biographies, poetry, the accounts of industries, schools and churches, and pictures.

The History is for the community, and about the community, but is kept by the Institute. The Curator is always responsible for the safety of the books. The books have been copied, and the copies may be borrowed.

We do not have all the farm histories, and we would like to have the history of every farm lot in the Institute's area. While we are researching the past, we must remember to record the present. With the help of every person in the community, we can finish the old farm histories, record changes, and note special events.

This was written to introduce Volume 2 by the present curator,
Mabel Weller.